Chihuahua, Mexico, Jan. 7. 1884.
Via El Paso, Texas.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D. Secy
My dear Sir,

Your favor of 24 Dec. postmarked the 28th, is in hand. I think it will be better for Mr. Dutton to wait the three months now, rather than to return to the U.S. in the summer, because my physician insists that I must take a vacation in the summer, & it would be desirable to have a man to "hold the fort" here, even if he cannot use the Spanish.

I shall advise Mr. D. to buy his furniture in this city at a factory recently established. The Board could afford to allow him a little more, if necessary, rather than pay freight & duties on new furniture bought in Boston.

Mr. Bissell has expressed a willingness to remain with us longer than for two months, if it shall clearly seem to be best; and I hope he can be spared from Guadalajara until Mr. Dutton comes, so as to leave me free to be absent on a Sunday now and then in visiting other points. Indeed, it seemed to me scarcely worth while, to come

so far at such expense, to furnish a "pulpit supply" for only two months.

As to the R.R. pass; new and very strict rules went into effect since Jan. 1st, whereby "no passes will be issued, except those signed by the President or General Manager". The former is in Boston and the latter in Mexico City. Unless you can obtain the favor desired, I must hereafter pay half-fare, amounting to from $5. to $11. on trips to the leading points in this State. It does seem as if some consideration should be shown your missionary, who enlists home friends in the work of supplying reading-matter to the eager men in the R.R. hospital here, and whose services are requested by the official surgeon, if a man dies.

Yesterday we began holding the English service at an earlier hour in the day, so as to gain more time and strength for the strictly Spanish work, which was resumed before we heard of Mr. Bissell's coming.

The Holy Scriptures and Tracts are selling better than ever before; and Mrs. Eaton meets with much encouragement in her meetings for women in the native houses.

Very Resp'y Yours.
James D. Eaton.

Chihuahua, Jan. 7. 1884. Rec'd Jan. 14

MISSION of the
A. B. C. F. M.

P. S. Mr. Bissell has just written to his sister in Chicago, thinking she may be led to offer herself for the work here. J. D. E.

CHIHUAHUA, MEXICO.
Via EL PASO, Texas.
Feby 6. 1884.

Rev. N. G. Clark. D.D. Secy.

My dear Sir,

Your kind letters of Jany 14th + 21st are in my possession. Regarding a lady assistant, - we desire one who is well qualified to teach, although her work at first would probably be more of the "house-to-house visitation", until the field shall have become somewhat cultivated.

Indeed, in view of recent encouragements, I am inclined to think that a teacher's full time will be in demand about as soon as one can acquire the language. Mrs. Eaton already has a free evening school once a week, for teaching English, which has served to attract several bright boys and some young ladies (Mr. Bissell taking the former) and to draw several of the lads into her Sunday School class.

The acquisition of any language is no slight affair; and a teacher, to command the respect of her pupils, should have a thorough com-

mand of their tongue. Therefore it is possible that Miss Hillis and Miss Taylor may find their age to be somewhat of a disadvantage; and I understand you to say that the former, at least, has not devoted herself much to school work. We incline considerably toward Miss Clarkson, but the clause, "her heart still clings to going back some day to Japan", suggests the query whether she might not find Mexico rather dull and slow after a residence amongst the "Yankees of Asia". We want a whole heart for Chihuahua. Mrs. Eaton gladly offers to the coming woman a home with us, thinking that to turn her aside to the mercies of an "American" boarding-house would be neither humane nor Christian. Yet she enjoys the luxury of complete privacy for a family, as much as any one known to me.

We hope your requisition upon the ladies of Chicago may result in securing for us just the right person with a fresh, young heart to love, and lead into a better life, Mexico's neglected women and needy youth.

"My late tour of 13 days to Parrál, (distant 150 miles by rail and 60 by stage) was

full of encouragement. Hearing from the native preacher, Francisco Padierna, (who had sent me a letter in Sept. last,) that he was inclined to seek another place of residence soon, for the sake of his health and a surer livelihood, I determined to wait no longer for an answer from the Presb^{n} missy. H. C. Thomson, to my letter of Nov. 9th, but started on a day's notice, Jan. 18th with a supply of Bibles and tracts.

Bro. Pa. has been in this state only since last July; yet he has established S.S. and preaching service in a retired private house in Parral, obtained twenty-nine subscribers to the monthly illustrated Christian Advocate (Span.) pub^{d} by J. W. Butler in Mexico city, won the affection and esteem of many with whom I conversed, and made some trips into outlying districts distributing tracts. In Durango, where he began Protestant services, he was offered help from the Presb^{n} Board, but preferred like Paul, to preach the gospel at his own charges, supporting himself at his trade of sewing shoes. In Parral he is cut off from this, because in that stony region, nearly all wear pegged shoes. He has, however,

been gaining a precarious living by making dulces (candy). When laid aside by rheumatism last fall, he received some help from the native Protestants, & his wife went out to earn money. On Sundays the people gathered about his bed to receive his instructions.

"He gave me a list of 23 names of *creyentes*, or "believers", adults who meet as Protestants, not all of whom, however, are probably converted persons. Aside from Padierna, the nucleus of this good work seems to be the Christian families of two brothers who came to Parral from farther South, where they received the faith from a "proselyte" of his. These have the Presbn hymn-book and Catechism.

The mayor of the city is friendly, and urges them to obtain a more central place of meeting where he can give them the fullest protection of the law. He is a freemason (contrary to church law) and with his associates maintains two schools and a free public library. Padierna has worked with the Methodists near Mexico, and with the Presbns in the states of Zacatecas and Durango, and has suffered many things be-

cause of the faith, but says he has no fear in Parral, - that the people of this state are far more peaceable.

"Having to send home for more Bibles &c by express, I also sent for two suits of warm underclothing which were purchased last Oct. in Wisconsin, and gave them to my poor brother who was visibly shivering with the cold, being clothed only in the thin white garments of a more southern latitude.

The letters in his possession from Bro's Thomson & Wallace & the pastor at Fresnillo(?) & Thomson's October (Parral) letter to me, seemed sufficient guarantee of their confidence in him; and for myself I was delighted to observe with his intelligent methods of teaching and preaching, and especially his winning and effective manner in expounding the Word and praying, in house to house visitation. Greatly do I wish that he might be my assistant at this station; but if the Presb. Bd will respect boundary-lines, we must at present have him occupy Parral.

He thinks that he may be able, with the

help of his wife, to give himself wholly to the Gospel work, if aided to ~~the~~ a small extent of $15 monthly in this paper money: - about equal to $12 in gold. This is not enough to buy the bare food of the Mexican couple who are living in my house; but I thought it better to begin with his own self-sacrificing figures, and have promised him this amount, subject to the approval of the Board. He is to write me frequent letters, and sally forth on colporteur work when he has first my approval. He is an elder in the Presbn church, and has expected ere this to receive ordination to the ministry, but has not been conveniently located with respect to the missionaries.

In Oct. Rev. Mr. Thomson in conversation with him evidently anticipated our possible occupancy of Parral, and gave him to understand that there is slight difference between Presbn & Congl methods & doctrine.

"On the Tuesday afternoon before my departure I administered the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper to a dear old man of 94 years, patriarch of the two Xn families, who knows that death may come at any

time, and who greatly desired to receive on earth the emblems of the Saviour's broken body and shed blood. It was very affecting to see him sitting close up to the table, that he might hear as ~~fa~~ much as possible, and trying to grasp, fully as he might, the significance of the simple rite. His little grandson, also, is thought to be a Christian; 8 years of age; knows a child's catechism & most of the Westminster Shorter Catechism.

But I must not enlarge; have only attempted to introduce Podierna somewhat to your acquaintance.

In the market-place I sold 11 Bibles, 10 New Testaments (Chihuahua stock just out then) 10 Psalms and 175 Gospels, besides books and 5,000 or 6,000 pp. tracts. - although (or because?) but a few weeks before the parish "Cura", from his pulpit warned the people against receiving, reading, buying or possessing any of this "poisonous" literature.

The same man called Podierna to his house months ago & said; "I know you are a poor man; if you will go away from this place, I will give you

$50." Padimo's response was; "It is true I am a poor man, but I would not have for $5000."

Until we have heard from Mr. Thomson, I suppose there should be caution used in public reports of this Parral tour, - with its great encouragements; although it would be well, doubtless, to let our Presbyt[erian] friends know that we are both able and disposed to do the work in this State.

I had given the Parral people reason to expect another visit from me before long, and hoped Mr. Bissell would be moved by my success to stay a little longer. On the contrary, he ~~thinks~~ thought he could ~~now~~ leave the sooner because the visit had been accomplished and I ~~am~~ was inclined to think it might be premature to organize a church within a month in P. Well, his heart has been in Guadalajara; but I cannot blame him under the circumstances, although the month of August is a good ways off. He expects to go Feb. 11 or 12; - reached here 18th Dec.

My health was somewhat exposed on the tour, but I am fairly well.

Yours in good hope, James D. Eaton.

Chihuahua Feb. 6, 18[illegible]
Rec'd 18 inst

MISSION of the A.B.C.F.M.

CHIHUAHUA, MEXICO.
Via EL PASO, Texas.
March 14. 1884.

Rev. N. G. Clark. D.D. Secy

My dear Sir:

Your favor of the 4th inst., enclosing quotation of the remarkable closing paragraph of Mr. Livingston's letter to the N.Y. Observer of 28th Feby, came last night. Dr. E. W. Gilman of the Bible Socy kindly sent me the paper, and I wrote a reply to the editor two days ago.

There are the best of reasons for believing that in this city the fact of our having undertaken mission work is widely known, although its spirit, methods and actual condition may not be understood.

Within 6 or 8 weeks after our return in Novr last, Mrs. Eaton and I made calls on about Fifty (50) "American" families. The Mexican school-boys, who buy books & tracts of me, report that the priests are angry because I am selling the Scriptures. The educated natives especially are aware of our presence, and know the story of Miss Capoulades finding out that she had a

Protestant missionary for a tenant. This lady is even now trying to dispossess me, offering me, last week, another house of hers, - more suitable indeed for a summer residence, but too far from the center of population and business, to be useful for mission purposes. I think it was a shrewd move for checking our work.

Also, the most widely circulated newspaper gives a weekly announcement of hours of Sunday service, both Spanish and English. But enough of this correspondent's egregious blunder.

I am glad to hear that Mr. Dutton has not given up Mexico; - his last letter to me is nearly 2½ months old. We had supposed he was to be on the ground before March 15.

But please do not stop with one recruit so long waited for, unless you wish in truthfulness, to curtail our title to "Mission to Chihuahua". I had supposed the Board intended to do something for our neighbor States of Sonora and Sinaloa.

And have you forgotten that my physician in Wisconsin declared most emphati-

cally, that I "ought not to do much work" this Winter, and must return North & spend the Summer?   True, he cannot compel my obedience, and I am hoping to be able, by some change of work and residence, to remain in this country through the entire year. Still, I cannot disguise the fact that I am not yet a well man, - my lower extremities, from the knees down, being half numb, and my nervous system easily excited. Later in the season, it may be necessary to fly, on short notice, to the friends who expect and even now urge my coming.

You probably do not realize that June is our hottest month; - the average temperature, last year, in my "patio", in the shade, being 74° at 6 A.M., 96° at noon, & 89° at 6 P.M. This heat and the probability of heavy thunder-showers in the mountains make traveling unsafe.   May, even, is so warm that little traveling in the sun is done by those who can avoid it. This leaves me but six or eight weeks, from date, of desirable weather for the "touring", which ones to be done and which we both have

thought would prove beneficial to my health, and help to fortify me against Summer perils. Mrs. Eaton, - brave heart, and indefatigable worker in the house and by the way! - says she will manage the Mexican S. School alone (although last Sunday it counted 20 pupils, in three classes;) and teach pupils of both sexes, who come here on Tuesday evenings to learn English - (our gospel bait for the fish-net of the S. School!) and will let the Spanish preaching service go for the time being. But we do feel we must have the new associate on the ground first, to conduct the one English service and thus "keep up appearances."

Bishop R. W. B.(?) Elliott of Texas, (of the Committee to investigate Bp. Riley of "Church of Jesus") in company with Rector Tays of El Paso, took tea with me two weeks ago, and in unqualified terms endorsed the Board's policy of doing something at present for the Americans here, saying that Bp. Riley had made a great mistake in letting the foreigners alone, with the result that they neither knew nor cared

much about him and his work, and could give no information on their return to the U.S. from a residence in Mexico City.

The plan was also heartily endorsed by Miss McFarren, who spent last Sunday with us on her way to open a girls' school in Durango, - she having been in Bogotá, So. America 10 years or more, for the Pres. Bd.; and by Rev. T. F. Wallace of Zacatecas, who was also in Bogotá, now in Mexico since 1878.

Mr. W. arranged by letter, from Villa de Lerdo to come 300 miles further North by rail, on purpose to make my acquaintance and confer for one whole day on the interests of our adjoining fields. This first conference with a miss'y of another Board on this ground was most valuable and enjoyable. Mr. Wallace expressed surprise at my success in selling the Scriptures in Santa Rosalia and Parral, and could not help me with suggestions in this kind of work, because he said he went, as a rule, only to towns and villages whose people had "sent for" him. The Presby'ns have sustained a continuous

work for so long a time, and have had out so many colporteurs preparing the way that more "calls" come than can well be answered in person. Your missionary has to be colporteur and general factotum, and alas! he is but one, - not a whole one at that!

Under date of Feby 21 Rev. H. C. Thomson writes: "I was entirely ignorant of the arrangement between the two Boards when I went to Parral, and as I have a way of following hot after all the work that commences, that it be not lost, I went up there, and am quite sorry that it has to pass out of our connection, but have no disposition to cause any trouble on the subject, and bid you Godspeed in the work". He further states that he had recently learned that Francisco Pedierna, who began the work there, cannot be fully trusted, and had better be "used under surveillance".

Now comes a letter from John W. Butler of Mexico (M.E.) mission, announcing his purpose to take a vacation trip to U.S. by railroad, starting this week, and his desire to make my "personal" acquaintance at

our R.R. station, telegraphing me in advance of his arrival. I think, however, he will have to spend the night here, - until a new time-table goes into effect.

Mr. Wallace has an annual free pass over the Mex. Central, - such as I desire. With it, at the proper times I could visit other missions at small expense, and gain a sort of recreation, with benefits in other ways to our work. Mr. W. got his "pass" by seeing in person the new "General Manager" in Mex. City, - D. B. Robinson.

You make no allusion to my report, under date of Feb. 6, of the trip to Parral, and therefore do not grant the permission desired, to pay a small sum to engage the services of Padierna, from date. I should like also, when the best opportunity is presented, to obtain a room for worship in that city, and perhaps engage a small house, which we or Mr. Dutton might occupy in the summer. The Mayor of the city tells me that their summer temperature is considerably lower than ours, owing to their greater altitude and nearness to

the Sierra Madres.

Our good sister, Antonia, was in the habit of going out twice a week with Mrs. Eaton, to visit the women; but I desired to have her engag[e] in this Bible reading every afternoon, and there was some danger of her husband's accepting offered employment out of town which would take them both away. So I set her at work, and promised $5.00 monthly, not as remunration for what is indeed a labor of love, but as a help to her necessities and a partial recognition of the value of her services. She has had some very interesting experiences, and her work is full of promise. It does me a world of good to have her come into the house at tea-time with eyes sparkling and lips eager to tell what she has heard and seen and said and done on still another afternoon. She is remarkabley well informed on questions relating to the Bible and R. Cath. controversty, and through being a native gains access to houses and hearts where Mrs. Eaton could not accomplish anything.

It was a pleasant occurrence to have her meet Mr. W., by whom she was baptized in San Luis Potosí.

When we were in Lancaster, Wisc., we found the "Girls' Missy Society" had lately been switched off, by some determined leader or leaders, to working for a new set of pulpit furniture for their own Church! After a consultation in the pastor's house, my wife addressed almost a Churchful of ladies and girls and wound up by proposing that they go to work to buy Mason & Hamlin's "Baby Organ" for our use in neighborhood meetings in this city, at an estimated cost, to cover express and "duties", of $50.

The idea "took", and the organ came into our hands in the last week of January, at a cost of $49.75, the girls having raised $75 by their organ fair. Our convert, Felipe carries the instrument on his shoulder on Wed. afternoons to the native house where Mrs. E. conducts a regular meeting, and she has written to the young givers an account of the work in which she receives so much help through their

donation. *Such* individual soliciting I suppose the Board does not disapprove. If Lancaster or Oak Park people should like to support Padierna, or other workers, to a limited amount, could the matter be arranged, or must all our *support at present* be drawn from the Otis fund? And can the gift of the Lancaster Socy be in some way acknowledged in the Herald, as by charging this mission with $49.75? I want them to continue working for For. missions.

Our little "American" S.S. in Chihuahua takes 20 shares in the new "Morning Star".

My dear Dr. Clark, pardon my urgency, or seeming impatience, but if the Board desires to make an honorable record in Mexico, helping to save her from heathenism and infidelity, let there be sent us *reinforcements*, and that *speedily*.

If the Prud. Com. hesitates, please release me, that I may either join my Presbyterian brethren, or return to a pastorate in the U.S.

Yours earnestly
Jas. D. Eaton

Chihuahua, Mar. 14. 1884.
Rec'd Mar. 21.

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COMPAÑIA LIMITADA DEL FERROCARRIL CENTRAL MEXICANO.

DIRECCION.

México, March 27th -84,

Rev, James D. Eaton

Chihuahua Mex.

Dear Sir:-

Referring to yours of March 12th.

Under the rules recently adopted by the Board of Directors in Boston, I am barred from issuing passes to Missionaries and newspaper men. The rules however admit of half fare tickets being sold them, which is the best I can do for you.

Mr, Nickerson our President I expect will be in Chihuahua during the latter part of April. It is barely possible he may be more liberal than I. Perhaps you had better see him or write him.

Yours truly

A. A. Robinson

General Manager.

Dr. Clark:

You see that our only hope for a free pass is from Boston. Mr. Nickerson has not yet stopped here. J.D.E.

COMPAÑIA LIMITADA DEL FERROCARRIL CENTRAL MEXICANO.

DIRECCION

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Yours truly

[signature]

General Manager.

Rec'd May 27

their people to receive Antonia into their houses, or to touch any books with "New York" printed on them. Padre Lasso calls Antonia the "Tail of the Protestants." I have avoided controversy; but if the priests declare war all right. Agitation is better than indifference.
Sincerely
Jas. D. Eaton

MISSION of the
A. B. C. F. M.

CHIHUAHUA, MEXICO.
Via EL PASO, Texas.
April 1 1884.

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark, For. Secy.

My dear Sir:

Many, many thanks for your cheering letter of Mar. 21, received last night. I know nothing of Mr. Goddard, but will ask my brother at Oak Park about him. As to Mr. Kilbourn; I did once feel unwilling to ask for him; but we so much need reinforcements, and they are so hard to get, that I shall thankfully accept Mr. K. if the Board is ready to send him speedily. Time is of great importance, & his knowledge of Spanish would enable him to go at once to work. I imagine that Mr. Dutton possesses considerable energy. Kilbourn is thorough, scholarly, patient, willing to endure hardness, kind and sensible. He taught school for a year or so after leaving college, and would naturally be the teaching member of our force here. Some young men in Parral want to study evenings. I might put K. there, bring Padierna here to work under Mr. Dutton's oversight (as I had thought of doing for the coming

Summer if I must be away.) and be freer myself to work up the outside field, as, for example, going over to Sonora & Sinaloa in the autumn to explore.

If Mr. Kilbourn can drop his little home miss'y charge at Genesee, Wis, at once, & come here, it will help to reconcile me to the taking of a vacation north, which now looks like so serious a loss of time. Dr. F. Paschal, meeting me on the Plaza last evening, said I ought to go north for 4 mo's - May to August: but that cannot be!

Week before last I spent three days in Aldama 21 miles from here, & sold 16 Bibles 22 N. Test's 91 Gospels and 13,300 pages of tracts. - having to return home after 24 hours for a second & larger supply than I took with me. The priest was not there, and I "pushed things". He remained over some days after the next Sunday, to burn such books as he could get hold of: but three houses have been offered me in which to hold a Christian song service, & I hope to go again soon.

Last week I took three days for visiting a few ranches between here & Aldama. - horse-back, with a pack-mule and attendant. Did not expect much: & had to send man back for more stock. Sold 16 Bibles, 16 Tests. + 33 gospels, besides tracts. Antonia thinks I am called of God to be a seller of his Word! The priests here are becoming roused and have forbidden

Chihuahua, Apr. 2. 1884.
Rec'd Apr. 10.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT,
MEXICAN CENTRAL RAILROAD.

M. B. WARD, M. D.,
CHIEF SURGEON.

Chihuahua, Mexico April 9th 1884

Rev. Jas. D. Eaton.
Chihuahua.

Dear Sir:—

Since you were consulting me a few days since. I have come to the conclusion. that you will be forced to leave your field of labors. for a few months. at least. And try some other climate.

Just where you will do the best. I cannot say. Perhaps, in some of the Western States.

You will need to lay aside all your cares. and strengthen your nervous system by proper exercise.

I assure you, that this advice is given with much reluctance. as we shall miss you. I hope. however that you will. in due time, return to us. with perfect health. Very truly yours

M. B. Ward M.D.

Chihuahua, Apr. 9. 1884.

Rec'd Apr. 16.

MISSION of the
A. B. C. F. M.

Chihuahua, Mexico, Apl 9th 1884

Rev. J. D. Eaton

Dear Sir

After careful consideration I would advise you to spend the summer in your home in the United States. You require mental rest, and change of climate. It would be well for you to leave not later than the fifteenth of May and to remain away until September. While absent give up all mental work, let your visit serve as a holiday.

Yours truly

F. Parchat M. D.

CHIHUAHUA, MEXICO.
Via El Paso, Texas.
April 10, 1884.

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark, Secy.

My dear Sir,

The two American physicians here, though of the same school, unhappily have no dealings with each other; but they have independently given me the written [illegible] which [illegible] closed. Both refuse to favor my cherished plan of remaining in this region through the summer, and I know too well that I cannot look for any indulgence from the wise physician who had charge of my case last September. Since my letter to you on the 1st inst. the advancing season has noticeably increased the death-rate of this city, and has somewhat diminished my nervous strength; so that I dare not disobey the doctors, and must go before June, which is the hottest month of the year here.

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Chihuahua, Mexico, Apl 9th 1884

Rev. J. D. Eaton

Dear Sir

After careful consideration I would advise you to spend the summer at your home in the United States. [illegible] [illegible] and change [illegible]. It would be well for you not later than the [illegible] and to remain away until Sept. [illegible] [illegible] you all [illegible] your visit here as a [illegible]

Yours truly

J. Pascual M.D.

Chihuahua, Mex. Apr. 11, 1884.
Rec'd Apr. 16.

Chihuahua, Apr. 9. 1884.
Receipt Apr. 26.

MISSION of the
A.B.C.F.M.

CHIHUAHUA, MEXICO.
Via EL PASO, Texas.
April 10, 1884.

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark, Secy.,

My dear Sir,

The two "American" physicians here, though of the same school, unhappily have no dealings with each other; but they have independently given me their written professional advice, herewith enclosed. Both refuse to ~~a~~ favor my cherished plan of remaining in this region through the summer, and I know too well that I cannot look for any indulgence from the Wisconsin physician who had charge of my case last September. Since my letter to you on the 1st. inst, the advancing season has noticeably increased the death-rate of this city, and has somewhat diminished my nervous strength; so that I dare not disobey the doctors, and must go before June, which is the hottest month of the year here.

If you approve of my retiring to Lancaster, Wis, which helped me so much before, I should be thankful to have secured, (perhaps through Dr. E. E. Strong as last year,) a free pass to go and return over the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fé R.R., between El Paso and Kansas City. Should this favor be withheld for the first time, then please obtain orders for half fare.

Also, if practicable, please have my name "and child" (6 yrs old) written on one pass, and Mrs. Eaton's on another, to allow of the latter's following later, if it should seem best.

In my absence she could have no relief from the heat and smells of the city, and I should feel some anxiety on her account. At the least, we feel that our one child should have the benefit of a change.

No word yet from Mr. Dutton; but a letter rec'd for him last night, from Weston, Vt, encourages me to look for him soon.

Hoping that patient care now may prepare me for many years of service in this field, I remain

Faithfully Yours.

James D. Eaton.

Chihuahua, Apr. 10. 1884.
Rec'd Apr. 16.

MISSION of the
A.B.C.F.M.

Later: Your letter of May 12th is in hand, with word as to Mr. Kilbourn. (!!) So the skies colt!! time brightening. J.D.E.

CHIHUAHUA, MEXICO.
Via EL PASO, Texas.
May 20 1884.

Rev. N. G. Clark D.D., Secy
No. 1. Somerset St, Boston, Mass.

My dear Sir:

Your favors of April 11th & 17th & May 5th all received. Mr. Kilbourn has about decided to come, and is anxious to have a personal interview as soon as possible, - which may be arranged for in Chicago. Mr. Dutton is possessed of sterling qualities of head & heart, which assure his usefulness as a worker, and congeniality as a brother. He relieved me on arrival of most of what I was doing in English, is fast learning to know our friends of both nations, and is taking hold of the study of Spanish with commendable diligence. The mastery of the new language is what we urge upon him as the paramount duty. He was perhaps a little too eager to exercise his gifts in behalf of the "Americans." I insist that such work is merely secondary, though an important auxiliary. He is enjoying excellent health now.

He is not quite the ready, offhand man, that I took him to be, from his few letters to me; and his verbal memory is not of the best. But his solid, earnest, consecrated character will doubtless make itself felt largely for good.

Apr. 15. Mrs. Eaton gave a "reception" in his honor to the foreign residents, with very simple refreshments, in providing which we had help. About fifty persons were present, and a good "send-off" given to the new missionary.

F. Padierna & wife have come here from Parral for the summer; for the double purpose, on our part, of furnishing a partial substitute in my absence, & of securing greater faithfulness in work from this native helper. Both the Presbn missionaries, H. C. Thomson & T. F. Wallace, began to discover imperfections in this brother, after he became associated with us! though Mr. T. baptized him in 1873, & says that he "can be made useful working under surveillance". And now Mr. Wallace writes that my letter to him (in reply to old charges against Padierna) is "very satisfactory" and adds: "I should have acted precisely as you have done, under the circumstances".

I think it will be a wise

division of forces at first, & have Mr. Kilbourn occupy Parral, the second city of the State, carrying him on his way, to make our acquaintance on the field & learn of the openings and needs. You will not fail to secure that lady missionary & teacher, as soon as practicable? Mrs. Eaton is undertaking too much, I fear. Perhaps in the coming fall or winter I can make a survey of the ground in Sonora, or Sinaloa, on the West; since we are barred from going East or South.

Since my last letter, I have made two most successful trips, selling the Scriptures & looking at towns. To outline one: Left this city Thursday A.M. Apr. 17th by Mex. Cent. R.R. to Jiminez 145 miles, thence by stage to Allende 40 miles, arriving at 8 P.M. A very bigoted, fanatical people. But hard work (tramping the streets, with a boy to carry my valise full of books) sold 7 Bibles, 17 New Tests, and 54 Gospels in two days. Saturday at 9 P.M. resumed stage for Parral, 20 miles further, and largely an up-grade road. Inside full; so had to sit with the two Mexican drivers. Arrived at 1.15 o'clock A.M. Sunday, somewhat chilled in spite of overcoat and pair of blankets. In the

afternoon attended Mex. S.S. and preached in Spanish.
Monday A.M. before six o'clock was in the city market offering my books. By 11 o'clock had sold all I brought, and shouted myself hoarse by calling purchasers and reading aloud to waiting crowds.
In the afternoon made calls and arranged business with Padierna. At 7 P.M. administered the Lord's Supper to a few believers who have had no opportunity to unite with a church, and baptized the infant grandson of the old man mentioned in the May Herald. At 10 P.M. took stage back for the 60 miles, reaching Jiménez at 8 A.M. Tuesday; - all night without sleep in a Mexican jam of smokers. After a morning nap, went out into the streets until dark. Next morning before 6 o'clock on the plaza with my books & by noon closed out all the copies of the Scriptures which I had left in a box on my way through (about 150.) and took the afternoon train home, two or three days sooner than had been anticipated. Net result; sales of 19 Bibles, 72 New Tests. 240 Gospels or Psalms, books and 16,000 pp. of Tracts, with receipts of $85 silver. There is some life in me yet. you see!
The season being far advanced already, though

having had to wait for Mr. Dutton, I sallied forth the next week to Santa Rosalia, 100 miles down the track; ~~on~~ in two days sold 7 Bibles, 17 N. Tests, 160 Portions and 8400 pp. tracts; receipts $35 — An "American" Saloon-Keeper, who had charge of the "Meson", where I lodged, exclaimed; "Well! you are ~~a~~ a 'rustler', more than any one I've seen since I came to this town."

Since Jan. 1. 84, including sales at our house, I have sold 107 Bibles, 173 N. Tests. + 741 Portions, making 1021 Copies of the Word; besides bound vols. + 50,000 pp. Tracts, with receipts of $320 — The tracts are generally sold, as well as the Scriptures, and the increased prices, asked at a distance from home, have enabled me to reduce the expenses to the Board, of my trips, by about $27 — leaving the net cost of the 5 Tours $81.75 Dr. E. W. Gilman of New York knows but few of the particulars, but he knows how many books have been shipped, & writes "Your success is most gratifying & remarkable."

There are many towns & ranches lying to the West & South, which cannot be reached by rail or stage. Several pack mules would be inconvenient and expensive. I can not obtain a suitable wagon for hire in this city

except at exhorbitant figures. Will the Com. authorize the purchase of a long, light wagon, with covered seat; to secure convenience, economy & health? I can look at vehicles in Chicago, and perhaps the new treaty will permit free importation by next autumn. I hope that a change of work to such touring next year, will be all the summer vacation I need. One gentleman here hopes to be able to help purchase the "mission wagon."

~~Last Sunday~~ In May I baptized, & admitted to the Lord's Table three youths of Mrs. Eaton's S. School class; - Mexican, - ages 15, 15 & 14 yrs. All are in the higher city schools, and of one of them ~~Dr. José de la Luz Corral~~, the head-priest, remarks that he is at the head of his class in the city college! ~~Dr. C. teaches Logic or Latin, or both.~~ Oh! pray, that from their number at least one, may be led to devote his life to the preaching of the Gospel! There is pressing need of educated preachers. Many of the intelligent men are going off into Spiritism & kindred errors. Undoubtedly some could be saved, had we the competent native preacher.

The English services have now a

smaller attendance, since the removal of families to other points, on the completion of the railroad. But the Spanish work grows: & I must ask the Brooklyn S.S. Assn at once for more papers.

That "baby-organ" is very popular; & Mrs. Eaton is receiving invitations to new houses, which she cannot accept.

The priests are preaching against us, & have warned the people against Bibles &c. which have "New York" printed on them. Antonia, our Bible-woman is now shut out of many houses; but I have armed her with a Roman Catholic Bible (Padre Scio version) sold in Mexico City, and sent her forth conquering & to conquer. She offers people their choice now! The wife of our new Mayor last week sent for her to come to her house and read.

Our "American" S. School & friends have together of late, given $5 to the "Morning Star" and $5 Mex. currency towards Sadierna's salary and to the general treasury 20 gold and $15 silver. Also the Mexican congregation is giving about $1.50 weekly toward the support of Sadierna.

My landlady has recently renewed her efforts to get me out of her house. On the 15th May I plainly told her I should not go, unless compelled to, until I could move into a house we could fully control.

She said she could get an order from the courts dispossessing me. I invited her to try it, & promised to publish the facts over the U.S.; claiming that such a course on her part would gain me friends and make great capital for us. Result: two days later, she meekly came to terms & wrote me a lease of the house until July 1. 1885, at the increased rent of $55 silver, monthly, which she had been offered by other parties, - three months rent to be paid in advance. I have her receipts in my pocket; our warfare apparently is ended, and nothing more is due until 15 Sept. Last year the "Americans" paid $10. monthly for the room used as Chapel, & voted its free use for our Mexican work, at the unused hours. Now they are paying $15 paper monthly, so that I can still meet the rent demands.

Please thank Dr. Strong cordially for his kindness in obtaining a free pass over the A.T. & S.F. R.R. I shall avail myself of it at once, and probably mail this letter in the U.S., tomorrow. We have had a long struggle over the question, How many shall go? To say, "All" would be better for the health of

both husband & wife. But how could we leave the new converts almost to themselves, and suspend the women's meetings, and generally discourage the little flock? Antonia with tears in her eyes begged Mrs. E. not to leave them. And she has heroically resolved to remain behind, with our boy Howard, to continue her manifold ministrations. How much is involved in this you know better than words can describe. I have laid upon her many injunctions, and charged Mr. Dutton to watch her: but she does not know how to spare herself, when she has an object to ~~obt~~ attain.

She may be obliged later to follow me, but at present has no intention of doing so.

Probably I shall be with my brother in Oak Park, Ill, until after the first week in June, and then go to Lancaster, Wisconsin.

The owner of the coveted vacant lots in this city, which I was trying to get last year for $2500 or $3000 silver, has died within a month, & perhaps the heirs will sell. I showed them to Dr. F. A. Noble of Chicago May 6th; & he said, "Hold on to those lots, & don't give them up, if you have to pay $5,000."

Will you encourage me to renew negotiations,

with such assurances of backing, that I may if possible establish a firm foothold for this mission? It would be grand, if I could this summer say to some personal friends; "The land is secured: now will you help us build the first Protestant house of worship in Northern Mexico, at the Capital of our State?" Our golden opportunity of securing substantial aid from "Americans" has mainly passed away, through the removal to other parts of so many R.R. contractors & other business men.

I could crave time & strength to write more fully upon some important points; but probably you already, at heart, are chiding me for saying so much. Mrs. Eaton is doing it audibly.

Our unusually cool May weather has enabled me to tarry longer than was anticipated. My Lancaster physician expected to see me ere this. [The So. Methodist man actually came here, preached for me, & engaged two or three persons to hunt houses for him; but now he has an appointment in Texas, & we await further developments!]

In good hope, through the Lord's blessing
James D. Eaton.

Chihuahua, May ... Rec'd May 27

[No. Mexico Mission.]

Lancaster, Wisc. June 24/84

Rev. N. G. Clark D.D. Secy,

1 Somerset st, Boston, Mass,

My dear Sir:

Your kind letter of May 28th (?) was received in Oak Park. Kilbourne's failure to go is not much of a disappointment, and he has not deigned to give me any reason for the change of plan. With the approval of Dr. Humphrey I have interviewed several men about work in Mexico, and found them well disposed; but their wives' health or the dependence of friends have been the great obstacles.

The last three letters from Mrs. Eaton, about a Mr. Wolfe, have been so urgent, that it has seemed best to copy for your perusal all she says about him. Even with all this information, I feel quite unable to make any definite proposition, and desire to obtain your opinion. Quite possibly the Board may have had similar cases to deal with that have served to establish a precedent. Plainly, we cannot furnish Mr. Wolfe an interpreter, and he must faithfully study the Spanish and devote himself chiefly to the Mexicans. Would he not be likely to grow restless and desire soon to visit

other parts of the republic? Yet, then he could be sent to the region of Guadalajara, and perhaps in the end would accomplish much for Mexico at large. If he could be located on mission ground without great expense, would it be wise to engage him for a term of years if he were not willing to enlist with us for life? Unless his connection were to be reasonably permanent, I should not care to substitute him for the third man promised for our mission. After all, I feel some hesitancy about taking such a person in with us fully, as one-third of the male force. You may have, or be able to obtain, information about Mr. W. that will be decisive. Is the case perfectly clear to your own mind?

For two entire weeks Mrs. Eaton could get no letter from me on account of the unmanageable Rio Grande, and it was a severe trial; but her strength has been sustained, many encouraging events in the work have occurred, and the summer rains have begun thus early, promising a more healthy season than last year. The Lord is our helper; the Lord is our shield. My sleep at night is more quiet and extended; and since stopping

work I have gained in weight ten pounds!

Consul-General Warner P. Sutton, of Matamoros, writes for a confidential list of American residents in Chihuahua, with personal details, who would be suitable candidates for the consulship. He also asks whether I would accept the position, if tendered. My reply was that I thought the Board would not favor my assuming the added responsibility, and that I should feel no inclination to accept the office, unless it would indirectly further our evangelistic work by widening the range of my influence. Yet, I suppose the duties are not very onerous; and I am now often called on, as a Xn minister, to assist unfortunate countrymen, without having official power, or receiving for the Board compensation for the loss of time.

I shall be in Beloit next week until Thursday A.M., then back here; have not attended Commencement since graduation in '69.

I have half-fare order on North Western R.R. good for the year.

Yours cordially

James D. Eaton.

Lancaster, June 24. 1884.

Rec'd June 27.

Lancaster, Wis. July 12/84

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D. Secy.

My dear Sir:

Many thanks for your important communication of July 7th.

As to Mr. Wolfe, I find no difficulty in coinciding fully with your judgment. But, in view of Mrs. Eaton's intelligent, devout and self-sacrificing Christian enthusiasm, I did not feel prepared, at this distance, to negative her proposal without reference to head-quarters.

Her letters during the past two weeks have brought much of encouragement, while they have occasioned me some anxiety lest she be not equal, physically, to her added responsibility and the strain of our long separation. Nine adults, seven of them directly connected with her women's meetings and the objects of her special prayer and labor, have declared plainly their wish to follow Christ; yet at the same time her depression of spirits is clearly manifest, - due to physical weariness; and she complains of benumbed spiritual

sensibilities", and feels "humiliated" at this "triumph of the physical over the spiritual."

Her strong cry is: "Oh! James, do bring back a lady missionary, if she is any-where to be found! With all this work, opening more and more, I feel as if I should never be a home body any more, and as if it would be quite impossible for me to keep up with the many calls.

I will make a home for the lady, if she will only come and do the work."

I have communicated again with Dr. Humphrey and Editor Gilbert, by letter, about this, and am myself on the track of a choice young lady of this region.

The news regarding Guadalajara is disappointing indeed, more especially as there seems to be foreshadowed a decision on the part of the Board to withdraw from work in Mexico, with the exception of the small enterprise it has in hand in Northern Mexico. With reference to the transfer of one or two labourers to our field, we should be glad, at the proper time, to be

permitted to express our preferences. But there are more fundamental questions to be considered at this juncture, which impel me to give brief expression to my convictions without more delay.

With our sparse population in the North, hemmed in by the "Border Mission" of the Southern Methodists along the Rio Grande, and our understanding with the Presbyterians on the East and South, it will not be possible for us to have the strong equipment, and report the large results, which our churches have the right to expect of the old Board, undertaking to do its part in "evangelizing Mexico". E.g. We could hardly expect to sustain a training school for the ministry: and, as large bodies attract strongly, the native evangelists and pastors, that are indispensable to stable success, will be secured by those denominations which have a foothold in the Capital (whither the young men of good families now go for their higher education,) or in some other important center.

You are probably aware that Rev. J. R. Carter, of the M.E. Ch. South, in El Paso, Texas, was commissioned to occupy Chihuahua, and made a preliminary visit Mar. 22nd & 23rd last, to engage a house suitable for mission purposes, and preached to our "American" congregation at my invitation.

Failing to get a desirable building, & being invited to another charge in Texas, he finally removed thither, to the disappointment of his wife, who had been studying Spanish. It would not surprise us to see his successor any day, and the Society could occupy our ground strongly with the native preachers of their near "Border Mission" to draw from.

If the So. Methodists can drive us from the "second city of the Republic", presumably they can with greater facility dislodge us from a town of from 16,000 to 18,000 inhabitants; especially as the latter is but distant an 8 or 10 hours ride from the U.S., while the former is reached only by a long stage journey.

As Mexico, "our next-door neighbor",

shall became more and more accessible by the extending railway system, I fear there will be introduced a stronger denominational rivalry, somewhat akin to that existing in our Western States and Territories. If the "Board" is indisposed to claim its rights in such a contest, on Mexican soil at least, then in the end it will probably have to evacuate Chihuahua also. If it yields the long-occupied Guadalajara, and occupies no new vantage ground instead, it at once consents to bear a very small and comparatively obscure part in reforming Mexico. Even supposing we were allowed to hold exclusively the three States of Chihuahua, Sonora, and Sinaloa, we then should be responsible for less than one-twentieth of the population of the Republic.

Let us face this probability in time, to the saving of funds and reputation. Reinforcement of Chihuahua, through abandonment of Guadalajara, does not, I confess, afford me good cheer. It seems to be best

the postponement of defeat and withdrawal on the part of our youngest mission.

Do not hesitate to propose such withdrawal this year, as a strong protest against unchristian rivalry, if that result seem to be foreshadowed by the discouragement in "Western Mexico."

I earnestly hope an appropriate decision may be reached speedily, because I had hoped to begin my return trip to the lonely and longing wife, with errands to delay me in Chicago, in about one month.

Anxiously awaiting your reply, I am,

Sincerely & faithfully Yours.

James D. Eaton.

P.S.

If this matter should hold me in the North longer than anticipated, it may become necessary to bring Mrs. Eaton here for some relief. Dr. Humphrey has already earnestly proposed it. Oh! that I might speak with you at this time, instead of being fettered in this way! J. D. E.

N. Mexico Aug 12 84

Lancaster, Wisc, Aug. 18. 1884.

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark, For. Secy,

My dear Sir;

Your kind letters of 16th & 28th July brought much encouragement. It is gratifying to know that you appreciate the importance of doing in Mexico more than merely hold Chihuahua, and that the Guadalajara brethren are not faint-hearted.

Early in June, while in Chicago, after failing to secure a recruit from men near at hand, I was encouraged by Dr. Humphrey and Mr. Shelton of the A. M. A. to apply to Rev. Alden B. Case, prominent in the Yale Dakota Band of '81. Mr. S. vouched for his classmate as "a prize" for us. Some interesting correspondence having been had with him, I finally offered Mr. Case a personal interview, in Chicago, or in Dubuque, he being then at his wife's home on the western boundary of Iowa. He accepted by return mail and named Dubuque, 300 miles to the East, for last Friday. We met, and I love him. He seems to be pure gold, - a quiet, scholarly, finely organized, consecrated, Christian gentleman; a native of the old West, and having acquired sufficient experience of church

organizing and building on the frontier, to give him immediate and positive value for our purposes.

Only one year older than Mr Dutton, he yet evinces a disciplined capacity for affairs, which produces the impression of maturity. He is eager to take possession of a new point, probably Parrál, although I was willing, if desired, to give him a harbor in Chihuahua until after next February, when his wife anticipates confinement. His power of hearing in one ear is impaired, and he has found the rigors of the Dakota climate rather trying, so that his wife thinks he ought to relinquish his chosen work with the Band.

But the medical certificate will determine whether he has lost much ground since he was accepted by a Life Insurance Co. three (?) years ago.

He expected to reach Howard, D. Ter. today, and to write his application for appointment tomorrow. He deprecates haste in so important a matter; yet his Association meets in Yankton, 12th Sept. - half way back to Magnolia, Harrison Co, Iowa, where his wife remains; and the theol. student now supplying his pulpit must leave Sept. first. He wants to reach Mexico Oct. 1st if possible; and Mrs. Case may need to rest by the way. Can you

affirmatively E.K.A.

give me an official assurance that he will be commissioned, if his testimonials prove satisfactory? X Then he can save valuable time in arranging affairs at home, disposing of some furniture, & packing.

The lady missionary has not yet been secured, but prospects are brightening; for the one of whom I wrote, is fully ready to go with us when convinced that her widowed mother can safely spare her; and that mother declines to take the responsibility of opposing. Others are in mind.

You may know that Mrs. Eaton is in the U.S., - now at her mothers in Montclair, N.J. Under date of July 8 Mr. Dutton wrote me: "I am anxious about her health, and some days it seems absolutely necessary for her to leave for a rest. x x x I felt sure last week that you and Dr. Clark would have insisted upon her going North. We talked the matter over, and went so far as to make some plans for it, Antonia promising to take care of me, and to do all in her power to keep the work moving successfully. You may receive a telegram before this reaches you; for I think she will go, rather than remain until there is danger of prostration. x x Now I have written you more than she would wish me; but I have expressed

myself so decidedly because you asked it, and I know something of how precious is her health. I will use the same freedom and write again soon, if it seems best."   July 12. Mr. D. felt more encouraged; but the risk continuing great, I finally telegraphed her July 23, "Start tomorrow"; and she did so, although very unwilling to leave Mr. Dutton, then ill with dysentery. (He is now much better, though fifteen pounds lighter.)   Mrs. E. is keenly enjoying every hour of her vacation, which she accepts as a welcome "gift from a loving Heavenly Father." We hope that her presence will render certain the obtaining of a lady missionary.   Mr. Case's decision to enlist we regard as an answer to much prayer.

Reviewing the history of the Mission for the past year, the salient features ~~seem to be~~ [illegible] calls attention to the following:

(1.) Weekly [Spanish] preaching service and S. School maintained most of the time in the city of Chihuahua, in a private house rented for mission residence;

(2.) Meetings for the native women, in their houses, begun by Mrs. Eaton in December, and regularly held on Wed. and Friday afternoons, with great encouragement;

(3.) Baptism of the first converts, a married couple, Nov. 18th, followed, two months later, by the admission

of three more to the Lord's table in Parrál; and in May, of three boys, about 15 years of age, who are good scholars in the common schools of Chihuahua.

(4.) The engagement, in Feby, as "Bible woman", of Antonia Carrasco, a very intelligent convert who came to us from San Luis Potosí. She spends five afternoons in the week visiting from house to house and explaining the Scriptures, as she has opportunity. The priests have denounced her; ~~one padre nicknamed her, "the tail of the Protestants"~~; and the people have been warned not to receive her, under threat of excommunication. Therefore some of her new friends have regretfully dismissed her; but others continue to open their doors, and I have provided her with a Roman Catholic Bible to use in disarming prejudice when advisable. She is both enthusiastic and discreet, - a highly valued assistant, whose labors are chiefly gratuitous, and would be entirely so, were it not that her husband is temporarily out of business and embarrassed. The aid thus far rendered by the Mission, has been devoted wholly to replenishing her scanty wardrobe, to equip her better for her work.

(5.) The maintenance of daily morning worship

in Spanish by the missionary's family; to which the native brethren are invited, and in which some of them share by reading the Scriptures in turn, singing and prayer. Their unconverted friends, who may be temporarily in the city, occasionally accept an invitation to be present, and so the leaven of the Gospel spreads.

(6.) Occasional tours, to a half dozen of the leading towns of the State, in the course of which, including sales at his residence, the missionary has distributed 155 copies of the entire Bible, 200 of the New Test. and over 825 portions, - Gospels or Psalms, making nearly 1200 copies of the Word.

This has been wholly by sale (though at less than cost, by favor of the Am. Bible Socy.), as this plan ensures greater regard for the book, generally saves it from being burned by the priests, and probably does not seriously limit a useful circulation.

Even the tracts are generally sold, except when sparingly given with a purchased copy of the Scriptures. Of these about 60,000 pages have been distributed, besides scores of miscellaneous books published in Spanish by the Am. T. Socy; and the cash receipts have been nearly $400, Mexican silver.

(7.) The gifts; of a silver-plated communion service, "For the Chihuahua Mission, Home and Foreign",

from the 1st Church in Meriden, Conn.; of a Mason and Hamlin's "Baby Organ", from the Girls' Missy. Society, of Lancaster, Wisc.; of sixty (60) volumes, in English or Spanish, for our Sunday Schools, from the School in Montclair, N.J.; and of English singing books and Spanish Bibles & hymn-books, from friends in Oak Park, Ill.

(8.) The contribution of about $250- by the "Americans" residents in Chihuahua towards the expenses of the Mission, in recognition of the favor of the Board shown them in providing a preaching service in English. The little American S. School also, has taken twenty shares in the "New Morning Star", and made an offering toward the Mexican work. In many ways have the foreign residents shown their good will toward the members of the mission.

(9.) The beginning of greatly needed reinforcement in the arrival, in April, of the Rev. Geo. A. Dutton. We must have more workers, in order to occupy other centers of population, and not merely within the one State of Chihuahua, in order to bear the share in Mexico's evangelization, which is with reason expected of the Board's constituency, and which alone can justify our name, as that of the "Mission to Northern Mexico".

As to material equipment needed for our greater efficiency, I will forward definite suggestions later, as you do not ask for them.

May you have a grand meeting and a great up-lift at Columbus! What would you think of putting Dr. F. A. Noble of Chicago on Com. on Missions to Mexico? He could give us but a few hours when in Chihuahua, in May, and saw scarcely anything of our work; yet he breathed the atmosphere of the place, and went on with his wife 1000 miles further, to the city of Mexico.

Rev. C. B. Sumner, now in Tucson, Arizona visited the mission in June and preached English, and expressed deep interest.

Hoping that the good Lord, in kindness to us all, may grant you yet many years of needful strength for the duties of your high office, and rejoicing to know that you have been so strongly reinforced in the person of Dr. Smith, I am, as always

Faithfully Yours.

James D. Eaton.

In "Chihuahua", pronounce "chi" as ch in "chinä, and "hua" as wa in wän.

Lancaster, Wis. Aug. 18. /84.
Rec'd Aug. 21.
ack. Sep. 10. E.K.A.

Lancaster, Wisc, Sept. 1. 1884.

Rev. E. K. Alden D. D. Secy.

My dear Sir.

Your favor of 21 Aug. is at hand. The young lady here fails us for the best of reasons, though hoping some day to be allowed to engage in For. missy work, toward which her heart has been enlarged. Mrs. Eaton has written to that Miss Trippe of Montclair N. J., and we leave for Chicago on the 3rd inst, intending to look into city mission and kindergarten methods, and to search for a recruit amongst the capable women engaged with a Miss Dryer, to whom we have been referred by Dr. S. Gilbert and others. We hope to start for Mexico on Tuesday, the 9th, to be at home on the 13th. You can address me, if necessary, at Chicago, simply, and mark, "To be called for".

Rev. Geo. A. Dutton has had a hard time of it with his dysentery, and probably went to his refuge in Kansas none too soon.

Respectfully Yours

James D. Eaton.

MISSION of the A.B.C.F.M. CHIHUAHUA, MEXICO. Via EL PASO, Texas. Sep 11 1884

Rev. J. D. Eaton
Rd Sept 4 '84

MISSION of the
A. B. C. F. M.

CHIHUAHUA, MEXICO.
Via EL PASO, Texas.
Sept. 18, 1884.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D. Sec'y

My dear Sir;

The brethren have given us a warm welcome home, and the first meeting (for women, yesterday) was fully attended. I come back greatly improved in health, weighing twelve pounds more than 3½ months ago, - twenty-five pounds more than in Sept. of last year. That illness was more serious than we imagined at the time. The Doctor feared "progressive paralysis", but now thinks me out of danger, with complete cure in early prospect; - i.e. in one or two years.

Mrs. Eaton is also much refreshed, - but the lady missy is not secured. Every one, of the noble seven young women, East and West, who gave us encouragement, has been detained at home for the present. One year more might give us a choice amongst two or three; but our need is immediate and pressing. Has there

been improvement in the health of the candidate of whom you wrote two months ago?

In Chicago we were the guests of Mrs. Dr. F. A. Noble, who kindly invited Dr. and Mrs. E. P. Goodwin to take tea and spend the evening with us. It was the first time that these friends had sat at Mrs. Noble's table. Mrs. Eaton addressed the good women at 75 Madison st., as the Advance of Sept. 11th reports.

Mr. Dutton is expected back on the 27th inst. After his accounts are rendered in full, I shall be better able to report what portion of our extraordinary expenses in the U.S. will need to be "charged on mission account", as not covered by the salary allowed.

With thanks for your favor of the 6th inst., I am, as ever.

Faithfully Yours.

James D. Eaton.

MISSION of the
A. B. C. F. M.

CHIHUAHUA, MEXICO.
Via EL PASO, Texas.
Oct. 7. 1884

Rev. N. G. Clark D.D. Secy.

My dear Sir:

I have your request for "estimates" under date of Sept. 20th; and you have my letter of the 18th ult.? reporting arrival, and reopening, more encouragingly, of work.

I desire soon to send you more facts, but now must content myself with the enclosed, which has consumed some time, and received the careful attention of Mr. Dutton and Mrs. Eaton as well, and yet is necessarily imperfect.

We do not forget the day, and shall remember you especially in united prayer this week; also at the natives prayer-meeting on Thursday evening.

Rev. & Mrs. A. B. Case are expected in 3 or 4 days. Good; good. Now we "wait and long for the Single Lady!

Mrs. E. was dizzy after her arduous work on Sunday.

Faithfully Yours.
James D. Eaton.

MISSION of the
A.B.C.F.M.

CHIHUAHUA, MEXICO.
Via EL PASO, Texas.
Oct 7 1884

Rev. N. G. Clark D.D.

My dear Bro.

Rec'd Oct 14

Chihuahua, Mexico.
Nov. 15/84.

Rev. N. G. Clark D.D. Secy.

My dear Sir;

I had hoped ere this to write you of some of the things here that give us good heart for the future:- our meetings, Mrs. E's work amongst the women, the coming of Rev. & Mrs. A. B. Case &c.; but it must now be postponed for a time, as but the Sabbath intervenes between us and my setting out for a trial tour in the "Mission Cart" just purchased, - as announced today to Treasurer Ward.

We thank you for the report received Oct. 24 of the methods of work found to be practicable in France, and which, with modifications, may be useful here.

Hoping that you may have recovered from your recent indisposition, I am, as ever

Faithfully Yours.
James D. Eaton.

(over)

P.S.

We were greatly helped by the papers of the Secretaries at Columbus, and feel specially grateful for your own on the problem of Self-Support.

J. D. E.

Chihuahua, Nov. 15, 1884.
Rec'd Nov. 24

Chihuahua, Mexico. Nov. 28/84

Rev. E. K. Alden, D.D. Secy
1 Somerset St., Boston Mass.

My dear Sir:

I have your favor of Nov. 19th, enclosing appropriations made for 1885, for which many thanks. It was at Dr. Clark's suggestion that I put down "$500 Contingent fund"; - it being impossible to foresee all needs of this new mission. For example, we hope to find it necessary soon to procure some school furniture and apparatus. Some scholars are eagerly waiting, and we - praying and watching for that lady associate.

We desire her to be able abundantly to organize and conduct a school. It is also very important (I dare not say, indispensable,) that she should know how either to sing or play (much better both) the ordinary Church tunes. We can do without an accomplished "teacher of vocal and instrumental music" at present.

The Mexicans here have had so many disappointments regarding American women who assumed to be excellent

common school teachers, that it is not worth while to offer them another of second grade. One of the best families here (father German, mother Mexican) would send their daughters to us. The oldest, a young lady who speaks English, ate Thanksgiving dinner with us. We are favorably impressed with Mrs. Lewis of Albuquerque, but she cannot be spared till next June. Mrs. Eaton still has hopes of securing Edwd. Kimball's daughter, if we must wait so long. Mrs. E. is doing too much, and having headaches. We think we may secure some help from her sister again, - Adela Pratt, - for about 3 months this winter. Miss P. is in S. Francisco, Cal. and can have free pass, through friends, to El Paso and return. She might teach English to the Mex. gentlemen of her old class, for pocket money, and give us help part of each day, - for, say, 1/2 or 2/3 of appropriated salary, - without expense to the Board for travelling. We now pay to Bible woman $4.63 silver monthly. Spanish teacher for Mrs. Case will cost about $6.00. Please hand the enclosed to Mr. Ward, after reading the middle paragraph.

Very truly Yours,
James D. Eaton.

MISSION to NO. MEXICO.

Chihuahua, Jan. 6 1885.

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark, Secy,

No. 1. Somerset st, Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir: Permit us, through you, to make to the Prudential Committee a proposal which has an important bearing upon the future welfare of our Mission.

The short lease of the house now occupied by us, both as residence & chapel, which was obtained from the reluctant landlady in May last, expires June 30. of the present year, and cannot be renewed (if it were desired) on favorable terms. For two years have we diligently sought a satisfactory answer to the question: Ought the Board to lease property, to buy or to build? During this period all available districts of the city have been explored, and visited again and again; and besides the real estate agents, the kind assistance of several friendly gentlemen, including the Mayor, has been enjoyed.

I. We have been mindful of the policy of the Board, to lease whenever practicable.

The experience of the past two summers indicates that the good health of the missy families cannot be secured except, probably, through the possession of a residence (1) in the outskirts of the

2

city, or (2) on the higher ground of the upper "Alameda" (avenue) or (3) in one of the few two-story buildings of the central portion. "(1)" One family at least ought to be easily accessible; and we know of no suitable suburban house to let. "(2)" On the Alameda, (until recently not occupied by the better citizens) there is not an available house for rent, and has not been, for these two years. On the further side, and opposite the "bull-pen", we could once have secured a residence with barely enough rooms for a family, but a good garden, for $60 silver monthly. "(3)" In this central portion we are offered three large rooms upstairs, which could be repartitioned to hold one family, but at great inconvenience, for $35; - the complete suite, of five rooms, much more desirable but very confining for children, for $60. The owner will not let for more than three years.

II. As to building. It has been our desire to secure one of the very few vacant lots in the city, on which to place both residence & chapel. After alternating between hope and discouragement for two years, and spending much time in the endeavor, we find ourselves today without hopeful prospect. The most desirable site, which could have been bought

in Nov. '81, for $2,000 – and for which I offered $2500, (the mayor proposed $3,000, and Dr. F. A. Noble of Chicago, thought we ought to give $5,000 rather than lose it.) is now held at $6,000. The other lots wished-for cannot be bought. Another site, suitable for dwelling only, and not very well located, can be had for $1,500. There is a bare chance of securing a smaller lot for $1,000. after April 15, – one having the "refusal" of the place until then, & likely to buy.

The estimates of comparative cost of building here range from 60 to 100 per cent higher than in the U.S.

III. As to buying. A Mexican gentleman, Miguel San Martin, who goes to the Capital the latter part of this month, with his family, to fulfill a clothing contract with the Govt., and who is friendly to Protestantism, desires to arrange his business affairs here for years to come, and offers to let two (2) one-story houses down town (unsuitable for us,) and to sell the above-mentioned $1500. lot (containing a small house we should have to pull down,) and another finely located house and lot, which a few changes and repairs would well adapt to the purposes of a residence.

This house is on the "alameda", near an open square, where the city has recently erected a music-

stand, and set out trees & flowers. Nearly opposite, across the wide avenue, is the fine new residence of our American Consul. Between, the horse-car Co. is laying a new track. The view from the front door is unusually fine. Back of the Court, around which the living rooms are built, is a small stable-yard which opens on a narrow street, parallel to the first. The house has a frontage of over 60 feet, giving one large room each side of the gate-way; and though the lot narrows much toward the back side, the unusual possession of a back entrance renders the house more healthful and convenient than are most residences here. There are seven rooms in all, - four very small; and it cannot be reckoned among the "grand houses", which pleases Mrs. Eaton very much, who wants to live in a native style of house, and simply as possible. Another room could be built on the vacant side of the court (e.g. to accommodate the lady teacher,) for perhaps $500; or a second story could be raised over the front part of the house. Or, if necessary, and the city should grow in that direction, we could devote the site, and probably part of the building, to the purposes of a chapel, or a ~~sch~~ school.

The building is now rented to the city at $30 monthly, for

a public school, the teacher occupying the back rooms. But the owner reserved the right to sell, and will accept $3,500 silver. To make necessary repairs & changes will involve a further outlay of about $500. The fees, stamps, Govt. taxes &c. connected with the sale, will cost about $50. more. The annual tax payable to the State Govt. is one per cent, and one-fourth more to the Federal govt.; the present assessed value is $3,000. Insurance is not often placed; no instance has occurred here of fire spreading to an adjoining building; and walls do not fall when, on rare occasions, the little wood of doors, windows & roof is consumed. Floors are brick. Macmanus Bro's have recently insured same property, at 5/8 of one per cent, in a London Co.

A good lawyer informs me that a foreign religious society can hold property here, for exclusively religious purposes, such as chapel, or even residence for the minister; but an agent on the ground must hold legal powers to act for the socy, and costs & trouble are increased. He advises that the property be directly held by one of your missionaries. Rev. T. F. Wallace, of Zacatecas, tells me that he thus holds some property which the money of the Presbn. Bd purchased.

Prices of property and rents do not seem to have lowered during two years. We foreigners think them

too high, but of course the holders anticipate a further advance; and it is generally agreed that the alameda will be much sought after, as these people change their customs and leave the fortress-like edifices which now contain in one enclosure both residence and place of business.

We are now paying, since May '84, for the house we occupy, $55 silver, less $15 paper from the "Americans" for the front room, or $41.00 silver for the residence simply. Two years ago we were about taking an upstairs suite of 5 or 6 rooms for $40. The number of foreigners has decreased through removals since the completion of the Mex. Cent. R.R. last March; but the business of the telegraph office is double what it was a year ago; improvements are going on in various parts of the city, & we think the Mexican population is growing. At all events, our Mexican work is; and our sala de culto, or parlor for worship, is already too small. The city is destitute of halls of assembly, beyond that of the Legislature, the theater and the Churches. But just now, and in answer to much earnest prayer, as it seems to us, we can obtain from Don Celso Gonzales, recently Gov. of the State, three large rooms which can be thrown into one, measuring about ~~30~~ 45 by 16 feet, with high ceiling, and five double doors opening on two streets. For the place is on a corner of this same block with us,

in a two-story building that everybody is acquainted with. As it is now, all worshippers have to enter our house, and thence pass into the sala from the court. You can appreciate the advantages.

Also; we are daily expecting the arrival of Rev. Mr. Kilgore of the Southern Methodist Ch. who has been appointed a missy to Chihuahua, and has had 3 or 4 years acquaintance with the Spanish.

The owner will give us no time, having lowered his price first-asked ($50) to $40; and I am about signing a contract for two years, with a "3 months' notice thereafter" clause inserted. Don Celso is ready to take the present house off our hands any day, to use as offices for a new R.R. co. We hope by special effort amongst Americans & Mexicans to raise $20, & to meet the rest from the appropriation for the year, estimating rent of one residence at a fair interest on the investment, adding taxes &c. You will remember that as yet we have asked the Board for nothing toward rent or furnishing of chapel, except $1<u>00</u> monthly for a part of last year.

With one residence secured, and a two years' lease of chapel, most fortunately located, we shall have breathing-space. Mrs. Eaton feels relieved at the prospect of having house & chapel separate, for hence the

work is always present and often causes nervous drain when it cannot well be afforded. On the Alameda in summer, we have often observed the wonderful change to comparative coolness & purity of air, in leaving the present habitation. These advantages are universally admitted.

We love this work more and more, and want to spend our lives in it, if the Lord will. It is for you to judge after this two years' experiment, whether it is wise to continue, and to ~~take~~ strike deeper root in this central region of Northern Mexico.

We have no hesitation in asking you to authorize the purchase the property described, if it be proved to have a clear title as claimed. It will be of no use to offer a lower price and the owner prefers to make, within ten days, a contract with the city for a 10 years' lease, as for another house of his also rented for a school. But he has consented to grant me the "refusal" for 20 days. The desired alterations could be made most economically under the owner's direction, and he has consented to buy some of the rejected windows. It might, therefore, be of great value to us to have from you an intimation, by telegraph, of your wishes, if the decision be to purchase, as we hope. The last letter from Treas. Ward has arrived on the 13th day from Boston.

In behalf of the Mission,

James D. Eaton
Treas.

Rec'd. Jan. 12, 1885.

MISSION to NO. MEXICO.

Chihuahua, Feb. 2. 1885.

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark, Secy.
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir: We feel very grateful to the Board for the favorable response, to our proposition of Jan. 6th, so cordially and promptly made by your telegram and letter. It brought great good cheer, but was soon followed by sore disappointment: for, although Mr. San Martin had assured us that he had the right to sell the desired property by giving to the city fifteen days' notice, it was discovered that his contract with the Council (including those other houses,) was still pending, & not closed, and the authorities refused to sign the papers unless San Martin would agree to furnish at once another building, equally convenient for school purposes and situated in the same square; - which he found to be impossible.

The past two weeks have been devoted mainly to the business of viewing houses and lots, and interviewing property-holders and men of some experience in building. Application was made to our landlady for an extension beyond June 30

of the lease of this house for which we pay, (including front room, lately used for Chapel by the Americans) $55 monthly; with several parties ready to give the same as soon as we vacate; but she refused decidedly.

It began to look as if we must buy land and build, at large expenditure of time and strength, and at a cost of $3000 to $3500 for the house only, in modified Mexican style: and we sketched some plans.

Fortunately, I visited a Mr. Francisco Espinoza, in whose house on the upper side of the alameda was secured a room for Mrs. Eaton and our sick child, in August, 1883. We readily formed an agreement which is exceedingly favorable for the Mission, while it suits Espinoza who has wanted for some time to build another house on his extensive property.

Using some front walls already standing he will build a new house after our plans, roomy and convenient, distant only 300 feet from the alameda, as central as San Martin's house, and even more favorable to health.

He requires a loan of $2,000 Mex. silver,

and will charge $40 monthly rent, but allows the usual one per cent per month interest, or $20, — the balance of $20 monthly to be applied to the repayment of the loan, which will require eight (8) years and four (4) months.

We are responsible for the Government tax of one and one-fourth per cent (liable to variation;) but Espinoza agrees to settle all such dues for the entire period, on payment by us of $25 annually.

The house is to be ready for occupancy by the 15th of next June; $500 being advanced now, and promises having been given to pay the same amount on the 1st of March, April and May respectively.

We have the right to transfer the house and privileges to any other person or persons, until the eight years and four months shall have expired.

Before making terms with Espinoza as a finality, I consulted a trusty lawyer; the lease is carefully drawn.

Espinoza has such confidence in us, that he accepted my personal notes for $1500, although the guaranty of a banking firm was offered him.

We had no hesitation in closing the bargain, because the greater privilege includes the less, and because, after all, it was simply a payment of rent in advance to secure a long lease on very low terms, - about one-half what such accommodations would ordinarily command here, allowing six per cent interest. Of course the annual interest at this rate should be reckoned at only $60 average, since the principal will steadily diminish, while Espinoza allows $20 monthly interest to the end of the period contracted for.

All the gentlemen I have consulted regard the terms as very easy for us.

Trusting that this action will meet your esteemed approbation, I am

Sincerely Yours.

James D. Eaton.

[For the Mission.]

Ref. L. Rec'd May, '85.

MISSION to NO. MEXICO.

Chihuahua, Feb. 11. 1885.

Rev. N. G. Clark D.D. Secy.
Boston, Mass.
My dear Sir:

The unavoidably large expenditure of time and strength in the endeavor to secure residence and Chapel, - in addition to the demands of a growing work, - has been the chief occasion of this delay in sending you word of our welfare for the past three months.

Work on the new house (referred to in my letter of the 2nd Feby.) has begun with a decision and vigor worthy of a Yankee. All the lumber for doors, windows and roofs has been purchased, also 12,000 adobes, (sun-dried bricks 2 feet long, 1 foot wide and 3 inches thick,) foundations laid, and walls rapidly rising. Señor Espinoza told me this morning that, judging from the prices of materials and labor, the house would cost him $500 more than he had estimated, which gives me no surprise. We can relieve him somewhat by slightly anticipating

the dates named for the payments on account, if convenient for the Board.

The entering of the new Chapel, (closed for two years,) on the first day of February, was a grand step forward. You already know something of the location, - upon a corner of this same Square, and fronting upon two streets, - one of them a good deal of a thoroughfare for persons afoot going to the principal Church and the market. The Chapel proper is fully 30 feet long by 22 feet wide, with ceiling 16 feet high. It is entered through four pairs of double doors, nine feet in height, two on each street. There are no windows, but we have bought glass doors to fill the opening nearest the pulpit, and this enables us to secure more than a "dim religious light" in this sunny climate. The neat black walnut pulpit, a small chandelier, and the half dozen bright *serapes*, or native blankets, which are laid on and about the platform, are the gift of the foreign residents. The natives have bought

additional benches; and the mottoes and evergreen decorations on the walls have been transferred from the sala or parlor of the mission residence which has been the only place of worship for these two years past. Inside the glass doors I have hung the roller shades of white holland which once did service in a New Jersey parsonage. With my brass stencils I have put upon one shade in bold capital letters of three different sizes, in Spanish: "Church of the Holy Trinity." "The Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come'; and let him that heareth, say, 'Come'": upon the companion shade, "Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning" &c. This name for the church was chosen after most careful consideration, and with the unanimous approval of the native brethren. It will confuse our enemies, and enlighten those who have been told that we do not believe in God or Christ. We have remarked an immediate increase in the attendance of strangers, and they have been

visibly impressed by the bettered surroundings and the reverent worship. Our natives kneel in prayer, with faces toward the pulpit. All say the Lord's Prayer with the minister; and also the Apostles' Creed, or else chant & responses after the reading of the Commandments. The singing is sustained with great spirit, and the whole service advances with real momentum.

We have still another room, connecting with the Chapel, of the same width, 22 feet, and half the length, or 15 feet, - which we shall throw into the Chapel when growth requires. This has one independent opening on the street, where glass doors have also been placed. Roller shades will here be utilized in a similar manner.

Two of the five Sunday School classes retire to this room for recitation.

Through the week it is occupied on four evenings by a night school for adults taught by the helper, Padierna, and one of the native women. Here about a dozen persons are learning to read, principally from our congregation, but

a few outsiders have already been attracted, and several others have come to sit thro' the session and read the Scriptures and books and tracts which we lend them.

(One old lady who can already read her Bible a little, and who confessed her faith at the December communion, (in company with six other adults) walks a long distance every night and cons her book with the greatest diligence that she may be better able to study the Scriptures. At our last general ~~prayer~~ meeting on Thursday evening, she ventured for the first time to lead ~~our devotions~~ in prayer; though not fully recovered from recent illness caused by bruises from two stones hurled at her on the street by a hater of the Protestants, as she was coming to one of the meetings held during the "week of prayer." On going out into the night air she fell fainting and was carried the long way home, insensible, by her son and two other men. Such zealous attendance, six nights in the week, is beyond her strength, though a beautiful proof of her Christian enthusiasm and sincerity.

In this "School-room" Mr. Dutton devotes a few hours weekly to the instruction in secular studies of some pupils who form the nucleus of the school which is awaiting the coming of the longed-for lady teacher.

Here also, on Tuesday afternoon, Mrs. Eaton leads a meeting for women, about a dozen in attendance, who are studying the life of Christ, as contained in the gospel of Luke.

On Friday afternoon she meets her class of five women who are called "The Willing Workers". The aim is to train them to do effective service in house to house visitation and personal conversation on religious matters. Already are they enlisted to some degree in this work, receiving no pecuniary reward. Two of them are teaching in the Industrial School and one of these also in the Night School. They are studying now Old Testament History and are doing some good work in their one Text-Book.

The room is transformed on Saturday afternoon into a hive of industry, named the "Industrial School". Though but three months in operation it has already thirty-two members,

divided into three classes; (1) the women, engaged in making garments, principally of warm underwear, - of which the poor are sadly destitute; (2) the girls busy with patchwork quilts; and (3) the boys making ~~picture~~ scrap-books, picture-frames &c. The object may be regarded as three-fold; (1) to teach habits of industry; (2) to provide the needy with suitable clothing; (3) to inculcate religious truth. No new garments are given away, but all are sold at very low prices to the destitute. Also some of the foreign ladies here have rendered a little aid, by gifts of money or material. The interest awakened amongst the natives by this enterprise is remarkable: and we have been surprised at some of their cash orders for clothing.

Mrs. Eaton has been able to accomplish much more of this outside work, than would otherwise have been possible, through the assistance of her sister, Miss Pratt, especially in the house and in the daily instruction of our growing boy. But now Miss P. feels she must soon return to San Francisco, having already been here over

two months, and then Mrs. E. will have to go beyond her strength as she did before, or curtail some of her efforts. She gained many valuable hints when in Chicago last summer, observing Miss E. Dryer's work through her Bible women, and is aiming to work more through others; but you know that even the work of training is laborious, and that always much must be carried through personally.

We have translated ~~and~~ in manuscript, a part of Schaff's Catechism; and a class of a few young men begin the study of it with me tomorrow. If this shall lead to the discovery of but one promising candidate for ministerial training, we shall feel profoundly thankful. There is most pressing need now for at least one well-educated native preacher. Our helper is useful to us in various ways, but his lack of education makes it impossible for him to win a hearing from intelligent natives trained in the public & private schools, and I shall not allow him to preach in the new chapel so often as he has done in the old, if my

health continues to be reasonably good.

In November last, through the kind offices of Dr. F.A. Noble of Chicago, we received a free railroad pass for the family to Mexico City and return, good till June 30. '85. Endeavor had been made to hold a General Missionary Convention in that city soon; but now it will probably go over till another year.

However, this chance to go to the Capital, through large cities on the way, seems too valuable to be lost. Mr. Wallace wants to see us in Zacatecas; Mr. Greene offers to do what he can for our comfort in Mexico, & advises coming next month; &c. We think we have now been working in our own way long enough to be greatly profited by a comparison ~~of~~ with what other denominations are doing. We of the frontier also desire for once to get nearer the heart of the population, activities and political & religious influences of this republic. It might be helpful, before building here, to see what other missions attempt in style & cost of edifices.

I am not without hope that we may secure some needed reinforcement in the

person of a native preacher or colporteur.

Returning, we can revisit some towns in the southern part of this State.

By limiting our absence to a few weeks, from perhaps the middle of March, we hope to avoid serious interruption to the work here & to meet expenses without further aid from the Board, - while becoming better equipped for effective management of the interests here. We only wish that Guadalajara were on the line of railroad, so that we could confer with the brethren there! Mr. Crawford wants us to come.

With reference to the projected trip if any cautionary suggestion occurs to you, you will confer a favor by making it.

There has not been space to speak of the tours ~~of~~ for the sale of the Scriptures, and observation of localities, in Novr. & Decr. Perhaps I can send something to the "Congt."; and I have not forgotten the Young Folks article for Dr. Strong.

We have much to be thankful for; the Lord has greatly blessed us, and can and will, do so more abundantly.

Sincerely yours Jas. D. Eaton

Chihuahua, Feb. 11. Recd. Feb. 28, '85.

MISSION to NO. MEXICO.
Chihuahua, March 6. 1885.

Rev. Dr. E. K. Alden Secy
Boston, Mass.

My dear Sir: The enclosed letter from Mrs. Lewis will tell of our disappointment. Mrs. Eaton will ask to have the lady friend in Ohio communicate directly with you, if she is favorably disposed; and we shall write in other directions which were suggested to us during the past summer. Mrs. Eaton must have help; - if possible, one who can play the organ. Her sister left us a week ago for San Francisco, greatly to our, and her, regret. The increase of my wife's burdens is severely felt by us both, and she simply will have to unload as the season advances and the heat increases.

But as we expect to have the new house ready in June, it will not be necessary for the missionary to wait until autumn. May & June are usually more trying than August & September after the rains have cooled the air.

Can we not have help, and

that speedily?

We are very sorry to hear of the accident to Mr. Ward, but hope that all will go well, so that his familiar signature may soon appear again.

Very Truly Yours.

James D. Eaton.

P.S.

A lady who understands music, could render valuable service at once, as did Miss Pratt, by playing the familiar tunes, and giving some instruction in common branches to our boy, thus releasing the mother for more direct missionary work.

J.D.E.

Teacher

Ans'd " 13

MISSION to NO. MEXICO.

Chihuahua, Mar. 23 1885.

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark, Sec'y.

My dear Sir:

I had hoped ere this to receive a response to my letter of Feb. 11, in which allusion was made to the place of using our free passes to Mexico City about this time. We do not think it wise to defer longer our departure, for health's sake, and the greater needs here later; - Communion in June, new house ready in May &c. So we hope to leave tomorrow A.M., spending Wed. evening with the prayer-meeting in Zacatecas. March 29 & April 5 we shall be in the Capital; April 12, probably, in Parral, with stops at other towns in this field. We anticipate the gathering of much valuable information regarding miss'y methods in Mexico. I also want to see what the missions do in the way of building houses of worship; shall inquire if we may possibly secure some native preacher or &c. Mr. Dutton will make his first plunge into preaching in

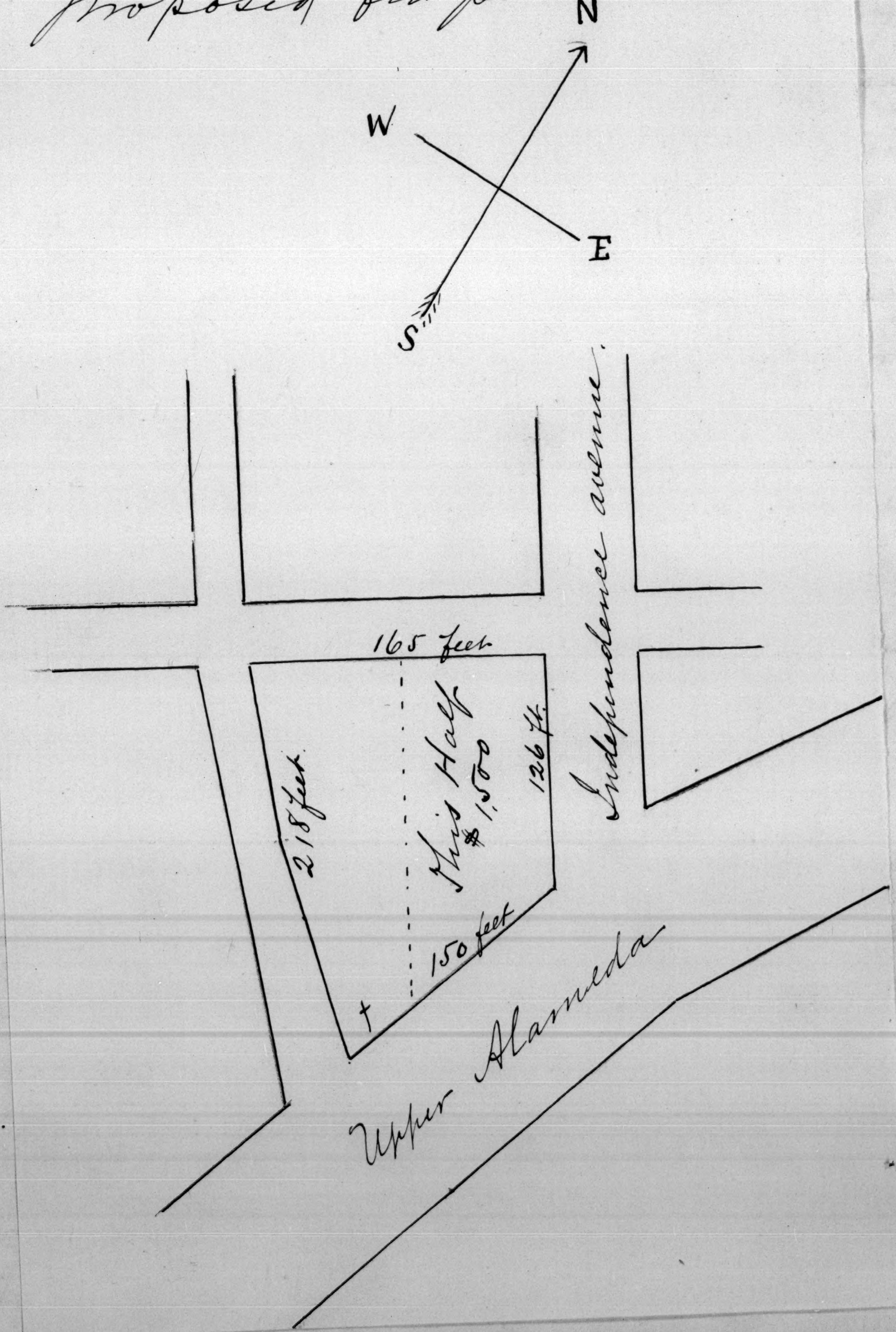
Later. 6 P.M.: Just now I have letters from you and Dr. Alden, dated Mar. 13th, as to Miss Warren &c. Many thanks.

Spanish, the English service being omitted. Some of Mrs. Eaton's "Willing Workers" she has been so carefully training will take her place in part. It is very hard to get away, and we have been almost tempted to give it up. But no time will ever be really "convenient", and there is but one voice in favor of our going, from both nationalities.

Mr. Crawford writes again expressing a wish to see me in Guadalajara, but that stage ride looks very formidable, 175 (?) miles from the R.R., and I should hardly feel like going either, unless you advised it.

I enclose rough sketch of the property we have been trying to secure for the past two years, the same for which Mayor Zarbiran offered $3,000 silver in our behalf, and which Dr. Noble of Chicago, when here, thought we ought not to hesitate to pay $5,000 for. Since the death of the owner, the heirs have been at loggerheads, but now we are assured that they are about dividing the property

Lots in Chihuahua, Mex.
proposed for purchase



Spanish, the English service being omitted. Some of Mrs. Eaton's "Willing Workers" she has been so carefully training will take her place in part. It is very hard to get away, and we have been almost tempted to give it up. But no time will ever be really "convenient", and there is but one voice in favor of our going, from both nationalities.

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I enclose rough sketch of the property we have been trying to secure for the past two years, the same for which Mayor Zarbiran offered $3000 silver in our behalf, and which Dr. Noble of Chicago, when here, thought we ought not to hesitate to pay $5,000 for. Since the death of the owner, the heirs have been at loggerheads, but now we are assured that they are about dividing the property

and would probably part with the Eastern half, which has a fine frontage on the alameda, and ^or^ a leading approach to it, for $1500, with a prospect of being ready later to sell the remainder for about as much more. One-half would accommodate well a chapel and residence. But it may be best to control the whole, as my advisors think. This is a garden, surrounded by a high wall; within a few months one of the heirs began to build in the corner marked with a dagger, and thousands of bricks are piled around the square. But his funds gave out, and he is in debt to a brother of his, who wants to sell. The dotted line is very approximately. There is some talk of running it at right angles ^to where it is now^, and giving us the half on the alameda, since the other part lies nearer the Main Plaza. In any event, we have the main corner, and there is not much to choose.

There can be but one opinion as to these being the choice lots of the city for our purpose; - sufficiently elevated

for a healthful residence, yet on that part of the alameda nearest the Plaza. Leaving residence out of view, we know of no other unoccupied lots so favorably situated for a Chapel alone, — even supposing we could buy anything that might take our fancy! The latest information received has almost persuaded me to Telegraph you. And yet we cannot tell. Something may yet disappoint us.

Is it asking too much that the Board authorize the purchase of this land, on condition that it can be had, and for about \$3000, or \$1500 for the half? In our judgment this would be wise, even if it might not seem best to build another residence. But you remember we have the right to transfer the house now building to any other parties at will. Please address your response to Geo. A. Dutton. Papers need not be signed till my return.

Should there be any urgent occasion to communicate with me, in Mexico City, telegraph in care of John W. Butler, Calle de Gante, No. 5.

Very truly Yours
James D. Eaton.

Rec'd March 31

Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.
Chihuahua, Mexico.
Apr. 28. 1885.

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark, Sec'y
1 Somerset st, Boston, Mass.
Dear Sir:

I have your kind letters of March 13th and April 3d (& Mr. Dutton) the former received on the eve of our departure for Mexico City, as acknowledged I think, Mar. 23d

Of the desired garden property, one-fourth part is definitely offered us for sale. It would accommodate a chapel and, by crowding, one residence or school. But as we are temporarily provided for, it seems wise to wait, until the owners may come to a better mind, or some unforeseen opening present itself.

We are glad to hear of gift in aid from Mr. H. P. Shores of New Haven, - a needed helping in refitting our rented chapel. He expressed interest when here, and encouraged us to look for some assistance later when we sh'd write him. I had sent no word

later, and are gratified by this unsolicited remembrance.

For "impressions" of our trip, secured by the kindness of Dr. F. A. Noble;- We spent eleven days in Mexico City, three (one each) in Zacatecas, Aguascalientes and Guanajuato, and four on the way. It has been worth much to confer with other workers on the ground, and see the natives and missionaries together. We confess that we have discovered errors to avoid, as well as excellences to emulate.

1. Salaries are higher than we had supposed. The cost of living below is much less than here. Every kind of food, except beef, is cheaper, as well as all sorts of manufactured and imported goods we inspected. It pained me to ask the Board for $1350 silver salary for a married couple, without children. Rev. Butler of the M.E. mission complained that his income was scant, worth little more than half what it would be in India. Yet he has

$1200 gold (equal now to $1412 silver) besides $100 or $150 for doctor's bills, traveling &c.

The Presbyterians mount up to $1500, = $1,777.50 silver; besides $100 allowance I think. Young Mr. Haymaker, of Zacatecas, rightly thinks it too much, & is giving about 1/5 to mission objects.

Native helpers and preachers range from $30 to $80 per month, and house, with the Presbns; & $30 to $75 with the M. E. ch. A native pastor in Z. gets $60 monthly, & besides receives $10 for teaching writing in the newly started school, and perhaps $10 for something else. All the natives who teach in the night school for adults are paid. Mr. Haymaker says things have come to such a pass that the people will hardly work to decorate the chapel for Christmas, without pay.

Their congregation puts $6 or $7 in the plate on Sunday, which pays for medicines and burial expenses for the poor, and a <u>part</u> of the cost of lighting their large place of worship. <u>Nothing</u>

whatever is given toward the salary of native pastor or helper, there, or in any other Presbn congregation; as Mr. Brown of Mexico city also informs me.

2. In their school, started this year, nobody pays for tuition or text-books.

In the Mexico City boarding-school for girls, each pupil receives everything from the mission; — board, clothes, shoes &c., & some are hardly grateful. Miss Snow, the chief teacher, does not approve this pauperizing policy.

In the M.E. girls' orphanage in Mexico C. there are perhaps 35 inmates, and 12 or 15, day scholars. Everything is also furnished here. Expenses last year, for teachers, rent, & support of girls, $7,000 gold. Only 10 pupils are members of the Church, though some have been inmates of the school for 8 and 10 yrs., and of these 10 the lady in charge sadly told Mrs. Eaton she could not see that one gave evidence of change of heart. Mr. Butler tried to comfort her, by saying that it

was taking a great step even to come out from Romanism!

3. The Presb^ns have no meetings for women that we heard of, except a sewing & reading circle of girls (by Mrs. Dr. Prevost of Z.), and in the three congregations in Mexico City no social prayer-meeting, only a mid-week sermon or lecture.

Mr. Greene thought the brethren were "not able yet to pray to edification". When are they going to learn?

The Methodists do better in both particulars.

But I cannot review all of our experiences. Some of them might have left me discouraged, two or three years ago: but we know that better results can be secured, even with the evil influence exerted in this land by the errors of the past. We feel no inclination to "strike for higher wages"! nor to be satisfied with a lower ideal: rather the contrary. But it seemed to me best to speak thus frankly to you

that the Board may know some of the obstacles we have to deal with in Mexico. My own sales of Bibles &c. seem phenominal to some of the brethren below, where books have been given away so lavishly: but these ~~travelling~~ roaming Mexicans, helped by the railroad, come here, and import those wrong notions.

It was worth a vast deal to have Mrs. Eaton with me; - to study certain phases of the work, & to permit a daily comparison of notes and impressions.

All cost the Board nothing but the vacation from our work here; and this gave Mr. Dutton a chance to carry more responsibility, and to make his first essays at preaching in Spanish, in which he did well.

On our return, we stopped for 11 days in the southern part of this State, to do needed touring. First to Parral, by stage 60 miles. Mr. & Mrs. Case are comfortably housed, doing well in the language, & meeting encouragements in

the work. Sales of books continually. Much friendliness shown by the people. Some Americans gone away, so that the English service is suspended: and now they have begun to have two Spanish services, one a sort of Bible school. I administered the sacrament of the Lord's Supper and baptized the infant daughter, "Juanita" Case. In the evening it rained: but some persons stood outside the windows in the wet through the service, listening quietly to my sermon.

All four of us went 15 miles further west to Santa Barbara, a small mining-town, sang the gospel from house to house, inviting the people to a "free concert" in the evening, where we read and preached it also. We did not pray, audibly nor to outward appearance, this time, so as to avoid arousing suspicions of a "Protestant mass" being said. The attendance was large, and the people want to see us again. Of course, the expected

denunciations of the priest will change the situation, but we feel a lodgment has been made; & not all can be turned against us. Mr. & Mrs. C. expected to go there again this week. They were delighted with the result of this experiment, and mean to adopt similar methods where practicable.

In Parral, we studied the problem of a chapel for worship, greatly needed. No definite result yet.

While there, also, we prepared a joint letter to Guadalajara (since signed by all of our mission,) suggesting to the brethren there that for the present we avail ourselves largely of printed helps already prepared by other missy societies, saving more of our strength for personal evangelistic work, until our native constituency shall have grown somewhat. For a while, the hymn books in existence will answer. And we cannot compete with the Methodist paper "Abogado Cristiano Ilustrado", nor

with the new Presbn "El Faro", of same size.
Mr. Greene would be glad to have us contribute to the columns of the latter, & I shall get subscribers for it. We would not object to the continuance at Guadalajara, of the "Estrella de la Mañana", (if furnished the sadly-needed new dress,) for the children and the S.S. lesson notes; and would subscribe for it.
Also we inquired whether there might not be secured greater coöperation between our two missions. Possibly we could arrange for an annual, or biennial exchange of delegates, - at least when their railroad shall have been built. The Presbns have thus bro't their two missions into close connection, with one paper and one theolcl school for all.

Returning to the railroad, Mrs. E. and myself made a short stay in Allende, finding some already "made protestants" by the reading of books &c. bought of me one year ago, and

inquiries for more information. Mr. Case hopes to visit there soon. - 20 miles distant from Parral.

Reaching the R.R., at Jiménez (or Huejuquilla,) we did much as in S. Barbara, with similarly encouraging results. Only, I went further & secured the sala, or front room, of a private house, in a Roman Catholic family, paying a month's rent in advance, & taking receipt, duly signed & stamped. To begin with, we pay but $3. promising to increase when we occupy for more than one visit in the month. The room, though having but an earthern floor, is over 30 feet in length, 15 feet wide, and has two windows on the street. Whether we can hold it later, remains to be seen.

We had hoped to establish services also in S. Rosalia, 45 or 50 miles up the R.R. track, & the third city in population in the State. But Mrs. E. became so wearied, almost sick, with the work, - having to sleep on the floor - that

we left it for the next time, - we hope on May 16-18. Mrs. E's presence was of great value. It opened various house-doors, probably enabled me to secure the private room, and of course attracted to the service, - with the singing. Where there are found so many "American" adventurers, the company of my wife greatly increased the confidence of the people.

Can you not make another effort to secure a free pass for myself only, to be used only in this state? The mission can then afford to send out Mrs. E. when she feels able to go, or some other helper perhaps, & the R.R. loses nothing to speak of, if anything. Trains run almost empty much of the time this end of the road. I cannot get this favor on the ground. Officials refer me to the strict "rules adopted in Boston". But Mr. T. F. Wallace has a free pass, last year & this year, and the Am. Board ought to have one.

With help from Mr. Greene, (who has known the man for 3 or 4 years,) & from the Methodists, I have secured a helper in one Rosendo E. del Valle, who has worked some for both Societies, & has taken part of a theological course, but needs to study a share of his time for two years more. His young wife is from Zacatecas, the [illegible] family of a late Colonel in the army. He received, while in charge of a congregation in Leon, his rooms and, while single, $30 monthly: afterwards, $45. As living costs so much more here, he will have to practise economy closely to get along on this. He manifests an excellent spirit & will live on less, if possible. We talked very frankly & earnestly with him in Mexico City.

It is clear that if we are to secure native preachers, or hold them after they have been trained by us, we must provide them a support not very far behind what the other Societies stand ready to give.

We feel that a general conference of missionaries might do much to regulate this matter, with others.

But no one Board can put into

practice Mr. H. H. Leavitt's principle of self-support at the outset, and hold its ground. "The more's the pity".

Del Valle's coming releases Padierna, (a poorly educated man, but at home in the Scriptures,) to engage in the colporteur work, for which his early peddler life peculiarly fits him, for which there is a crying need all over this region, and for which he was recommended to us by Rev. H. C. Thomson a year ago.

I have just despatched him toward Cosihuiriachic, & the Sierras, with his two-box load of books balanced across the back of an ass, purchased for $18.

His wife, member of the Presbn church, who has made trouble always with her tongue, has a very unsavory history away back, and has recently caused scandal by her conduct here, we have sent to the home of her parents in Durango, partly at mission expense, well worth the money. Her husband is highly esteemed, and useful to us,

and we shall be glad to employ him, as long as he is willing to leave her there. Her expectation of being confined in 3 mo's gave us a good ~~such~~ excuse to send her home.

I have written to Dr. Gilman, hoping to secure aid in sustaining Padierna. He has enthusiasm for this sort of work. Especially does he desire to do something for the pueblo Indians toward the Sierras, who are accessible, whose chief usually speaks Spanish & can interpret, who use no idols in their worship ("they say"), & and yet for whom the R.C. priests have not attempted to do anything.

Mr. Dutton being able to take more responsibility here in town, I hope to be permitted, during the coming year, to work more in the general field, - thus imitating partly the M.E. system of presiding eldership, which seems to be needed.

Are you not thoroughly tired with perusing this voluminous letter?

Mrs. E. & myself enjoy improved health.

Very truly Yours,

James D. Eaton.

Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.
Chihuahua, Mexico.
May 16, 1885

Rev. N. G. Clark D.D. Secy
1 Somerset st. Boston, Mass.

My dear Sir:

Thanks for your note of May 7. received this A.M. I could add "not a little" to your "surprise", if there were opportunity for conversation.

E.g. An elder in that Zacatecas Church, which is "too poor" to pay the pastor anything, a few months ago gave a wedding supper for his daughter which is estimated by Mrs. Haymaker and an American gentleman (friendly to our work,) to have cost $500. Three kinds of wine were furnished, dancing continued till a late hour, and some of the many guests were the worse for the liquor. A Presbyterian missionary "seemed greatly to enjoy himself" on the occasion.

Our new helper's wife (native of Zacatecas) explained the small attendance on Sabbath worship, as compared with the reported membership,

by saying "there were so many diversions on Sundays". i.e they follow pleasures instead of going to church.

These things are inexpressibly sad and almost discouraging. A general missy conference ought to be held, and better practices insisted upon at least so far as pecuniary expenditure is concerned.

Rev. A. B. Case of Parral would be glad of permission to secure money amongst his friends for the purchase of a Baby Organ like ours here. It would be very useful in his neighborhood work and near touring, and our mission cordially seconds his application. Duties and freight will bring the amount up to about $50 gold.

Wishing you may have the physical strength to meet the demands of the coming Summer's work, I am as always

Faithfully Yours,

James D. Eaton

P.S. Your favor of April 16 came also to hand.

Rec'd May 23.

Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.
Chihuahua, Mexico.
June 1. 1885

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark, Secy
1 Somerset st, Boston, Mass,

My dear Sir:

Your letter of May 23rd is received this A.M.; also a telegram from that Miss Pratt asking me to meet her at the R.R. station on Wednesday A.M. But what will be her surprise and pain to learn why she cannot come to our new home, as planned for! Poor Mr. Dutton, so ill last summer, is now attacked with small pox! Last Wednesday he did not feel well, and was in bed most of Thurs. & Friday, but we thought it a little billious attack; but Saturday he was already broken out, and the Doctor said either the sick man or we ought to leave the house. No decent place can be found here for such an emergency, and we did not think for a moment of sending him away. All the house was closed except his room and the kitchen, and we have secured for his nurse the same faithful Ta-

back to our home under six weeks. Next Sunday is our communion, and 1st July we hoped to organize a little church with much careful instruction before-hand. So matters crowd.

Faithfully
Jas. D. Eaton

tonea, our Bible woman, who nursed him last Summer; She is assisted by her husband and by a faithful & capable servant who lived with us all Winter. He will want for nothing. The Doctor says he has the disease in the milder form, and we hope for the best. Our neighbor, Mr. Espinoza, who built the house, has taken us in giving us a good room, the use also of his kitchen, and offering us his parlor & everything. So we are in the same room where Mrs. Eaton watched by our dying child in Aug. '83. We know also that we have been exposed; indeed, there are many cases of small-pox in the city. But the Lord will order all things for the best.

There is not a countryman of ours here who would have shown us the mercy which this Mexican has. The Chapel & S.S. room were closed to English service yesterday, as many are afraid of us; & we shall fumigate the place because Mr. D. used to occupy the latter as his study, and perhaps caught the disease from a Mexican pupil. Mr. D. will probably have to go to the U.S. when he recovers, so near the time of his contemplated departure, and we shall not be allowed to go

Chihuahua, June 1, 1885
Rec'd June 8

Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.
Chihuahua, Mexico.
June 5, 1885.

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark, Secy
1 Somerset St, Boston, Mass

My dear Sir:

A letter from my parents, felicitating us on the enjoyment of so pleasant and healthful a home, came this morning, but read almost as if written in mockery: so painfully have our circumstances been changed. The daily bulletins to Mr. Dutton's parents have usually been cheerful in tone, as the disease thus far has seemed to be progressing normally. But today the outlook is dark; - increase of fever, high pulse, delirium, and unequal & incomplete filling up of the pustules. On the face, the eruption takes the "confluent" form.

Our weekly prayer-meeting last evening ~~wh~~ was wholly devoted to earnest petition for the life of our dear brother, and for the sustaining grace of the Savior he has loved and

I think I acknowledged June 1 the receipt of yours of May 23.

served, to be manifestly his possession through all the sore trial. The news of today decides us to call the native brethren together for special prayer tonight, and daily, until a change occurs.

Mr. Dutton was particularly delighted with the new location, - so much so that we were a little afraid that he might hardly feel contented to live, in the center of the city after his marriage; and to think that he should be the only one of our mission to be occupying that house now, and lying so near to death's door!

Mr. D. has always seemed to us rather susceptible to disease & contagion, and we feel with Dr. Paschal, that the prospect is very serious: are so glad that we telegraphed Miss L. A. Pratt to tarry in El Paso. How sorely tried has this mission seemed to be, from the beginning. But our hope is in God.

James D. Eaton

Rec'd June 12

[illegible] 1880.

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Received at 109 State Street, Boston. 918 June 6 188

Dated Chihauhau Mex

To Rev N G Clark Secy
1 Somerset St Boston

Mr Dutton has died of
Small=pox after ten days illness

Jas D Eaton

Chihuahua, June 6. 1855.

Rec'd June 8.

Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.
Chihuahua, Mexico.
June 8. 1885.

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark, Sec'y
1 Somerset St., Boston, Mass.

My dear Sir:

The wires have already flashed to you the tidings of the sad event which was foreshadowed in my letter of Friday, the 5th inst. That afternoon our Brother Dutton grew rapidly worse. At 9.30 P.M. the Doctor said he probably could not live till morning; but stimulants prolonged his life until the middle of the following day. At the last it was a case of "Confluent" Small-pox, - not "mild" in any sense. The law not permitting the exposure of the living through ~~by~~ unnecessary delay, by evening he had been laid in the grave.

This occurrence seems inexpressibly mournful in almost every aspect. After his serious illness of last summer, Mr. Dutton returned to make faithful & further trial of the work. It is scarcely two months since he preached his first formal sermon

Chihuahua, June 6, /85.

in Spanish, and in six weeks more he was to have gone North to claim his bride, and bring to us another companion and helper. Yet I have reason to believe that he was not wholly satisfied in his work here, and would not have been greatly disappointed had his illness of last Summer returned, or had the Board declined to commission his elect lady.

Being extremely conscientious, and accustomed to depend largely on the judgment & advice of others, he may have been over-persuaded to enter the missy work.

Lacking experience of the world, "not having been West of the Green Mts. till he came here" (he said) he had to unlearn some things, and have some day-dreams dispelled. Perhaps it was a disappointment not to find this people literally "stretching out their hands" and pleading to be instructed in the better way. But into this subject I prefer not to enter further.

You know already our high admiration of his consistent Christian character,

his faithfulness, his patience, his sympathy with the distressed, his modesty and readiness to receive suggestion and to co-operate with others.

Two days before he died, he started up in his delirium saying "Let us go". "Where?" inquired his nurse. "With Jesus" was his answer; and then he specified his nurse and Miss Hicks and Mrs. Eaton and myself as persons to go with him. That night he thought he was dying, although only the day before he had spoken of recovery to health. All this was in Spanish. So also the following day, Friday, he sang and prayed with his attendants, and specially requested that a certain hymn be read over to him several times, and this he afterward sang with Antonia. Translated into English prose, it is as follows:

"Grant us Thy presence,
Holy Spirit of God;
Let Thine influence enliven
Our weak faith and love.

"Give to our minds the light divine,
And in our souls put thy grace:
Our breasts to God incline
In sincere adoracion.

"Already with the blessed God
Let our worship have acceptance:
And may there come upon us
In abundance thy benediction."

From our room near by we heard the tones of his voice loud and clear, in the strength of delirium, singing this hymn of the Mexican Church.

On the day that the nature of his illness was discovered, - one week before he died, - on taking the first drops of medicine he and Antonia together prayed for the blessing of God upon the use of this remedy, and he added: "That is all I want, - the blessing of Christ."

One comfort we have in the remembrance that he was ministered unto by the brethren of the congregation, chiefly by the Bible-woman, Antonia, who was

his loving nurse in the sickness of last year, and gladly served him again. All other assistance that could be serviceable, was secured, and regulated under our immediate direction, principally that of Mrs. Eaton who was in frequent communication with the nurses, without coming in personal contact, or entering the room of the sick, as this seemed unwise as it was unnecessary.

We think Mr. Dutton fell a martyr to his work, in that he was teaching several times a week a 10 year old boy who came to his study to recite, and who, as we learned a little before this sickness, had had three brothers sick of small-pox at home, - one dying. This boy is a faithful attendant at all our meetings; and, knowing that the contagion was in various parts of the city to more than the usual degree, Mrs. Eaton and myself went to be vaccinated, for the third time in less than 3 years. Mr. Dutton thought it was not worth while

in his case, he had "so good a scar".

The fact is, these Mexicans are very careless about the disease; make little of it; few adults indeed die of it, though children suffer. We had to issue the strictest orders to prevent a stream of annoying visitors from entering the sick man's room. And the hastened burial, together with our degree of care to avoid contagion, seemed to the ignorant a silly proceeding and an evidence of indifference or want of sufficient regard for our brother missionary. We have also had an infinite amount of trouble in securing the burning of articles from the bed-chamber; Indeed, very few things have been destroyed, such was the greed of the attendants to appropriate to their personal use the useful articles we had destined for the bon-fire.

Nine days ago Mrs. Eaton told me the Doctor had advised her to send our boy, Howard, and myself out of town for some weeks. The reason for this

peculiar advice I could not compass, — only dimly surmise. But at noon today an indiscreet gentleman informed me that Dr. Paschal had said to him on the Plaza that "if Mr. Eaton should contract the small-pox, he could not survive it". Although not out of danger (and others are sick in this city,) our trust is in God, and this does not greatly move me.

But it does move us, and seems cruel enough, — so that after our impressive memorial services in the Chapel last evening, Mrs. Eaton exclaimed: "I wish I had died in place of Mr. Dutton!" — to have this people misjudge us, when the Americans thought we had exposed ourselves too much, so that they avoided meeting us on the streets or elsewhere, that is, some foolish women especially.

Is it not enough to lose one of the few workers, but that we must see the work temporarily hindered by such misapprehensions, when all hearts

ought to be melted together in sympathizing sorrow, and to be resolving on holier and more earnest living, doing the truth which our departed brother preached!

But you, dear Friend, know enough of the trials of the missionary life, where there has to be so much crucifixion of self and stooping to the ignorant and prejudiced; and I fear it may be unkind to give you an insight into these attendant sorrows of ours.

Forgive me; and pray for us that we may receive that spiritual strength that we so much need, in abundance: that we may set a good example before others, & lead them to a better mind, and that we may not faint under this trial of our faith.

Can you tell me what part of Mr. D's books were bought with the Board's money, & might remain here? I have asked his parents what disposition to make of his personal effects.

As always,

James D. Eaton

Chihuahua, June
Rec'd June 15

Chihuahua, Mex. July 4. 1885.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D. Sec'y
No. 1. Somerset St, Boston, Mass.

My dear Sir:

I have Dr. Alden's letter of 24 June, reporting the very kind and unexpected action of the Secretaries and Prud. Com, favoring & granting permission to Mrs. Eaton and myself to take a season of rest amongst friends in the Northwest, if deemed desirable. If we had been confined in the former residence, I should have been obliged to leave the city before this. But the air is so much fresher in the new house, that we hope to be able to remain through the season. That was a terrible blow, of a month ago; but Mrs. Eaton is already better, and if I lose no more ground, we shall stay.

The next few days may decide. Mr. & Mrs. Case of Parral are here for 4 or 6 weeks' vacation. All three looked

rather poorly on arrival 8 days ago, but are already much better, for change of water, air, food and fellowship.

I told Mr. C. we would have our annual meeting now, to consult on Mission interests. For Mr. Dutton's substitute we desire a man of experience in teaching, who can build up an academy here. I am in communication with a Mr. Geo. C. Hall, who studied at Pacific Theol. Semy, but has taught for years, partly in Arizona, where he learned Spanish. He will be in Lancaster, Wis. probably, July 12th, and if R.R. tickets cost nothing, I should run off for 2 weeks to secure him if possible.

Substitute – Acad

Mr. & Mrs. Case order us off for two months, but the Mission vote this week is a "tie".

I have your sympathetic letter of 10 June. Mrs. E. has had the way opened to suggest to Miss Hicks that she come to us as Lady Missy teacher.

Yours sincerely
Jas. D. Eaton

Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.
Chihuahua, Mexico.
July 15. 1885.

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark, Sec'y,
No. 1. Somerset St., Boston, Mass.
My dear Sir,

I have asked Mr. Case to state Parral's need of a missionary teacher, which has been apparent ever since my first visit there a year and a half ago; and he but voices the emphatic judgment of our little mission as it was expressed before Mr. Dutton left us. If that Miss L. A. Pratt of Essex, Conn. should decide to enter missy service, and Miss Hicks also come, our two would be secured.

Mr. Case inquires whether permission to raise money for a "baby organ" for Parral and vicinity, from his friends, has been received. Your favor of May 23rd, replying to my application of May 16, omitted reference to this.

Our English services, which

were chiefly in Mr. Dutton's care, have been suspended since his death (except the S. School.) For the year past, and more, the attendance had been gradually diminishing, principally through the removal of "American" families, and some difficulty was experienced in raising their share of the rent &c. The foreigners here, with a few noble exceptions are indifferent, not to say hostile, to missy work; and to rebuild and maintain fair attendance, when interest in English preaching would require a large expenditure of time and strength. Also, so long as such services are maintained, the "Americans" seem to think that we are under obligation to make pastoral "calls", misunderstanding our mission.

Manifest good has been done by our efforts from the beginning, and we shall wish to continue the Am. S. School for the present; but the present crisis furnishes opportunity to suspend the preaching, without (I think) causing unkind criticism.

Very Sincerely Yours Jas. D. Eaton

Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.
Chihuahua, Mexico.
Aug. 24. 1885.

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark, Secy,
No. 1. Somerset st, Boston, Mass,

My dear Sir;

Your letter of Aug. 7, asking for a statement of facts for the Annual Report, arrived last Monday; and soon after, your note of Aug. 14 authorizing the private raising of funds by Mr. Case for a "Baby Organ". Please inform me by what date such a "statement" ought to be in your hands each year, and I will try to save you the trouble of asking for it. Three or four days delay has been caused by my being a little "under the weather"; but on the whole my health is reasonably good, and I am very glad that it did not seem advisable to accept the kind offer of rest from the Board. Not for a moment have we regretted the decision to stick to the work all summer, and now we shall not have the depressing experience of laboring to

bring matters up to a point of progress reached some months before.

News of Mr. C. A. Wright's appointment reached me first through Mr. Case, of Parral, and I reopened negotiations for a desirable residence (over our newly rented Chapel,) which were broken off at Mr. Dutton's death, when your announcement showed me to be just a year ahead of time! How could we wait so long! Yet we have learned better to abide the Lord's time; and if it be His will that the work shall not unfold so rapidly as has been our hope and prayer, then may He grant us contentment with this wise ordering, and "patient continuance in well-doing."

During the year, regular work has been done only at the two stations of Chihuahua and Parral; although Mr. Case has already made half a dozen short tours into out-lying regions, doing colporteur work with most encouraging sales of the Scriptures, and making

[illegible]

the acquaintance of the people; and from this station similar trips have been made. In April a beginning of gospel services, intended to be regular, was made in two other important towns, but Mr. D's death necessited their temporary abandonment.) Probably the next few months will witness reëstablishment.

Meanwhile, for three months past, our helper, Francisco Padierna, (having been released from his post by the coming to us from Mexico City of a student for the ministry, named Rosendo del Valle,) has been in the service of the Bible Society in the Western part of the State, & has found great willingness on the part of the people to receive the truth. Large numbers of them have lost all respect for their careless and dissolute priests; and a few have declared their purpose to learn and follow the gospel way.

In Chihuahua, the removal of "American" families and the loss of our

beloved associate, together with the general indifference of foreign residents, requiring earnest and persistent efforts to overcome even in part, have led us to suspend the preaching service in English, although we have not felt it would be right at present to give up the morning Sunday School in that language, – some twenty to twenty-five thus meeting together to enjoy religious privileges, the most of whom would otherwise be as neglected as any heathen. For this Sunday School, and toward the rent and furniture of the chapel, "Americans" have contributed 298^{56} Mexican silver.

The Mexican S. School has had encouraging growth, to double the size of a year ago, – the average attendance for the past five Sundays being forty-one, and the enrollment over fifty. The missionary and wife with four natives teach the six classes. An interesting teachers' meeting is maintained, and the scholars would compare favorably

[illegible]

with any school in the U.S. for their acquaintance with the topics and golden texts of the "international lessons." At present we use the lesson leaves prepared by the Presbyterians, in Mexico City.

The number of hearers at the preaching service is about fifty, and the general and the women's prayer-meetings are well sustained, - attendance at the latter, under Mrs. Eaton's stimulating Bible instruction, ranging from twelve to twenty.

Our communion services have been truly delightful, and we have welcomed eleven adults baptized on confession of their faith. Ten are running well: the eleventh was too readily received on the favorable representations of another missionary (Rev. J. F. Wallace, Presbn.) We hope soon to organize a church of fifteen, or more, members; and I begin, this week, instruction in the chief points of a "Manual" of our principles, doctrines and usages, - now

in course of preparation, — to fit them for larger responsibilities. We find it advisable to adopt some system of "probation". Rev. J. W. Butler says their Discipline enjoins "at least six months", and he emphasizes "at least" sometimes to mean a year! We think it would be wise to have an interval of "at least" three months between a favorable report by the Examining Committee and the public reception to membership.

These people are exceedingly poor, and at home would usually be objects of charity. But their gifts for more lamps, $15 towards benches, a little for the rent, and the cost of lighting, have amounted to $55.25 Besides, on our suggestion that those who had no money could give labor, several have coöperated in cleaning and caring for the chapel.

Indeed, there seems to be flowing a genuine current of church-life, — the movement of which produced something

of a tonic effect upon our brother & sister Case coming for a season of rest & change of air, from the newer beginnings at Parral.

For five or six months was maintained an evening school in our chapel, to teach the rudiments to adults who had had no chance to learn. The Native Helper taught the men, and one of Mrs. Eaton's "Willing Workers" the women. Attendance small of course, but rising as high as twelve.

This summer we have made a beginning at a day-school for children in the congregation, seven in attendance, with "promises" of more to come, some from the outside. The teacher is the same "Willing Worker" who was about to leave us for a town 100 miles distant to earn the living she could not secure here. It would have been a serious loss. $15 a month, though not enough to support her entirely in this expensive region, reinforcing her preferences, keeps her here at present, holding school for

five hours a day, in the front room of her mother's house. She is not qualified to teach more than a primary school; & we are convinced that if the Mexico of the future is to be won to the gospel, Christian schools for the youth are indispensable.

Miss L. A. Pratt of Essex, Ct. fails us utterly, and we are quite reconciled! Miss Hicks' decision has not been announced. May we still hope for Miss Bray? Her father has been favorably known by our family for many years, though intercourse has been rare.

From Parral, Mr. Case reports the number on the ground still, of "faithful evangelical Christians" as five adults. They, with twelve children, are regular attendants. About a dozen more call themselves "believers": of some of whom he has much hope. He has about thirty-five hearers at his service, and has started Sunday School & prayer-meeting as well. A better room for Chapel than his house furnishes is impera-

tively needed.

The record of sales of books & cash receipts on this field is also an advance upon last year's good showing.

Of Scriptures there have been distributed almost wholly by sale; 314 Bibles, 281 New Testaments and 587 Gospels or Psalms, making 1182 copies. There is no record of miscellaneous books, but a nearly complete account of tracts gives 77,431 pages put in circulation. The total receipts have been about $439.00

Of importance also have been the renting of a commodious Chapel (as reported in January,) and the securing of a comfortable new residence, in Chihuahua, on a long lease, - a house which probably ought to be purchased, if the owner is still willing.

The visit to Mexico City and cities on the way in the Spring by Mr. & Mrs. Eaton, (through the thoughtful kindness of Chicago friends,) has been of much advantage in securing personal acquaintance with workers

and methods on other mission fields.

There has been too much of competitive and divisive work done by various Societies in the past, and their unfortunate results are but too plainly seen in the multiplication of otherwise needless, or much less serious, obstacles and trials.

[N.B. Miss McFarren writes us from Durango: ×× "the Presb. Board have finally abandoned this mission. This is a great disappointment, although we feel fully satisfied that two churches could not work here to advantage in the present state of affairs."

Is it not possible to secure from these So. Methodists an intimation that they will not also enter the smaller city of Chihuahua, - especially as our agreement with the Presbns kept us (in intention at least) from occupying Durango?]

We observe an increasing friendliness on the part of the well-to-do classes toward ourselves personally; but their social ties are too strong to be easily broken; and the uneducated character of our native Christians generally,

[illegible]

together with the limited education of the native helpers, renders it almost impossible to secure their attendance at our services. A "college" reputed to be "very Catholic", was lately started here; & the head priest lectures weekly to the pupils. yet the ~~head~~ principal of it in conversation with me two days ago, declared himself an unbeliever in Christianity, though not an atheist. He represents a large class amongst the educated.

At the other extreme, are many mechanics and laborers who would be pleased to hear denunciations of the priesthood and criticisms of the old Church, and who if given a little help after the "soup-kitchen" method, could be baptized and duly enrolled, by the score. You can measure perhaps the size of the problem. The gospel undoubtedly is for all, but not all classes can be reached alike by one and the same method.

Whether ~~as f~~ with the presumption against us as being foreigners & heretics,

we may reasonably expect to lay hold of those classes which the churches in the home country find slipping from their grasp, may seem doubtful to some minds. It certainly cannot be done with a rush and a "hurrah".

But we do wish to make the attempt, and if the Christians at home will but furnish a few of their number to help, we shall see if it be not the Lord's gracious will to turn the hearts of some, yes, many, of these to Himself. But the longer we delay, the more difficult probably will become the undertaking.

Faithfully Yours
In His service.
James D. Eaton.

Chihuahua, Aug. 24, 85. Rec'd Aug. 31

Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.
Chihuahua, Mexico.
Sept. 7. 1885

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark, Secy.
No. 1. Somerset St., Boston, Mass.
My dear Sir:

The efforts made, during the past two years, to secure suitable property in this city for the purposes of the Mission, have not met with success. Within a year, as you may remember, we had the offer of a private residence for $3,500, but the owner was unable to obtain a release from his contract with the city. Last March we hoped to secure a plot of ground for $3,000, or the half of it for $1500, conditioned upon the willingness of a joint owner; but this man would not consent to the sale, and now is building houses to rent, upon that same long-desired property which we could have purchased, two years ago, for perhaps $4000. Now, however, our feeling is rather one of thankfulness that we have been hindered from securing the properties alluded to, and others for which we negotiated.

Enclosed you will find a writing giving us, for 30 days, the "refusal" of another piece

of property that seems most providentially placed within our reach. The owner is a German, of "liberal" ideas, long resident here, having a Mexican wife and family. Is a man of means, proprietor of our chief newspaper, and Master of the Masonic Lodge.

The property is situated near the center of population, about 80 feet to one side of the more important avenue leading to the upper alameda from the main plaza, and distant four blocks from the latter. Relatively, it is as well located as the best mission house in Mexico city, - that of the M.E. church and, indeed, bears some resemblance to ~~the latter~~ that. It runs through the block, and so fronts on two streets. The fronts have an extension of nearly 80 feet; and the depth is nearly 140 ft. Nearly in the center stands the old theater, a circular enclosure of about 50 ft. diameter with narrow galleries, - the center open to the sky; - built solidly of adobes with some stone trimmings. The stage measures 24 by 27 feet, and there are two dressing-rooms. On one side of the street entrance is a billiard-room 33 x 16 feet,

and a small barroom. On the other side are two smaller rooms. This front, including occasional use of the old theater as a cockpit, rents now for $35 monthly. The other street front is occupied by a dwelling-house, somewhat out of repair, but renting for $25. Repaired it would easily be worth $30 or $35. It is ample for a missy family, & some room to spare. A second story would almost double its capacity. The theater and its front cost $12,000. This property, with several others, was mortgaged for $25,000, and about to be lost by its owner, a widow, when in Jan. last Mr. Hagelsieb bought the whole at an advance, to help this old family friend. He wishes to get back his money as soon as possible, & offers the theater end for $3,500, or the whole piece for $5,500 Mexican silver, worth today in U.S. funds $4,680. Expending $500 in repairs we can accommodate temporarily the Church and S.S. work, and make a suite of rooms for the native helper's family, for all which we now pay $50 monthly; leaving still the residence front to be rented, until wanted next year by Mr. Wright, or to be occupied as a school.

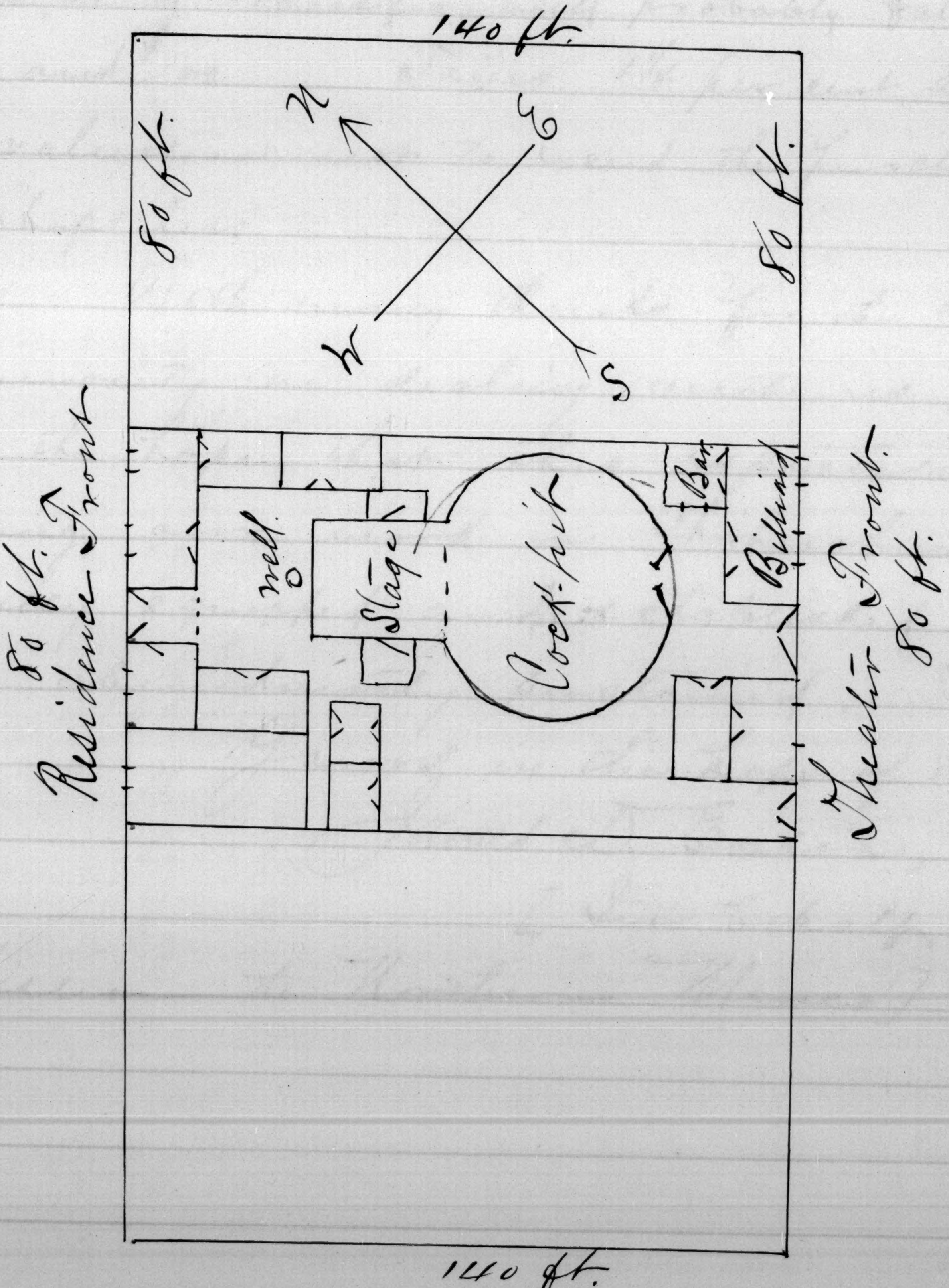
The owner supposed we should have to pay out

a considerable sum for tearing down the old theater to make room for a church; but it can be used as it stands, for years to come, as an audience room of perfect acoustic properties, by simply roofing it over, laying a floor, & opening windows for ventilation. An American contractor thinks the cost would not exceed $1000. But call it $1500, and what a cheap house of worship for this region! It could be torn down in the future for a grand house, without much loss. The entire property would do for us about what the $30,000 purchase of the Presbyterians in Zacatecas is to do for them.

There is absolutely no old Church or convent in this city, available for our purpose, and it is most fortunate that we can obtain the old theater. It has been sold once since January, but came back on the owner's hands, because of failure to make payment.

We earnestly recommend the purchase of the whole, and believe that the owner will not fail to keep his word, which I asked him to put in writing for the sake of the

Independence Avenue
To the Alameda ☞



Property offered for sale, in the middle of the block -
Chihuahua, Mex.

Prudential Committee, who have twice authorized a purchase by us, - in vain.

Cost of transfer will probably fall between $50 and $100. Taxes, 1¼ per cent annually, on a valuation not to exceed the purchase price, perhaps less.

With many thanks for the Board's generosity in dealing with us, and in the hope that this expectation of seeing our work in Chihuahua more fully equipped and established, may be abundantly sustained, I remain

Yours in the hope of the Gospel
James D. Eaton,
[In behalf of the Mission to Northern Mexico.]

Chihuahua, Sept. 7, '85.
Rec'd Sept. 14.

✓

Sept. 16/85. Sent to Rev
J. D. E. #4,686.—
L.S.W. 2

Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.
Chihuahua, Mexico.
Sept. 21. 1885.

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark, Sec'y
No. 1. Somerset St, Boston, Mass.

My dear Sir:

My good wife sometimes accuses me of under-stating facts: and this time she seems to be right. You might change our figures for average attendance at Mexican S. School to 45, - as that is the report for the past eight weeks, - 55 present yesterday. We have taken no steps backward, but every few months have added about ten to the record of the preceding period.

I regard Mrs. E's work amongst the women as the Spiritual center at this station. She shows just now a little nervous weakness, and we have cut her off from some of the meetings.

But daily, almost, we express our satisfaction that we were led to decide upon remaining at our post through the summer. A blessing has been with us all the time.

Your autograph letter of the 4th

inst. was duly received, and has been a good deal of a puzzle. We only hope it does not mean what it seems to imply.

The financial report from Mr. Ward fills us with gladness. You will doubtless have an up-lifting anniversary.

Do not forget to pray for us missionaries who have to live as best we may breathing a lifeless atmosphere, spiritually.

Faithfully Yours.
James D. Eaton.

Chihuahua Sept. 21, 88.
Rec'd Sept. 28.

Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.
Chihuahua, Mexico.
Oct. 24, 1885.

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark, Sec'y
No. 1 Somerset St, Boston, Mass.

I have earlier acknowledged the receipt, through Mr. Ward, of $4,680 gold to purchase the old theater property here, as authorized by the Board in your letter of Sept. 16. The transfer has been made, to our great satisfaction, but we shall have ~~the~~ to wait until Mar. 31. '86, to take possession of the part specially desired, reasons reported to Mr. Ward. Meanwhile, we secure the equivalent of 12 per cent interest per annum on the investment, and shall improve the interval in laying plans with the greater care.

Enclosed please find estimates for next year, as closely as can be made for this nascent, and still infant, mission. Also, list of desired periodicals for 1886, which you will kindly hand to Mr. Ward.

The published notice of Miss Bray's departure for Turkey dashes our last

hope for early reinforcement. Was that J.W. Baird's doing? Oh! that I might have been in Wisconsin too, - my native state!

In the same line, this A.M.'s mail brings a letter from our colporteur in the North who yesterday morning attended the "District Conference of the M.E. Ch. South", in El Paso, Texas, and who reports their decision to "establish a mission in Chihuahua, Santa Rosalia, Rio de Conchos y Paso del Norte. The minister is already here, and goes to Chihuahua. I am very sorry, because we have labored much in some of these parts; but if so be that it is the will of God that his holy gospel should in this manner progress, let his will be done."

We have cried "Wolf" two or three times already, but this looks like the real animal!

We (wife, boy & I) have just returned from a trip of 175 miles with horse & buggy, and eight days absence, visiting the mining town of Cosihuiriachic, where

I sold so many Bibles last November, and our colporteur some more in June last. Five or six of the best families of the place (20 adults in all,) met us for worship, and Bible study, & a third meeting, weeknight, in the large parlor of a family who spent last Winter & Spring in this city & so received the gospel. The father is dead but the two sons, grown, are employed by the Boston mining company, - one receiving $3 a day, & both in positions of considerable responsibility. I shall next week send a complete stock of Bibles, and Tract Socy publications to be kept for sale in their house. These friends will continue Bible Study by themselves in the same parlor, and I have sent them S.S. lesson helps and forms for worship. Population is about 2,000, mainly dependent on the Company, and the Superintendent is a good friend of ours. His wife has offered to play the organ, which the natives hope to

city. The priest is ignorant & lazy, only reciting the mass, and never preaching a sermon, and we have a golden opportunity. In Guerrero, 75 miles farther from here, is a similarly favorable opening, which we hope to improve next Spring. Entire cost of tour thus made was only a little over $10, while the round stage fare for one person would have been $20.00 Mrs. E's help at least doubled the good results.

The growth of the work makes it impracticable for me longer to carry the stock of books and Tracts on my private account. We see now many openings for wise giving of tracts. My present stock would catalogue at $117.84 U.S. gold, but the actual cost to me, after paying freights & charges, tho' grants of A.T. Society was only $109.11 Mexican silver. There is also a small stock of books &c. published in Mexico, and some Spanish Text-books for schools, which cost me $7.68, a total of $116.79 Mex. silver, which I would ask of the Board; — a little less than was granted 3 years ago, but

never made use of. Also, will the Com. authorize the now needed enlargement of the stock, - perhaps $30 to $50 dollars, - all sales to be carefully reported. The estimated difference between cash outgo and income for 1886 is given on the accompany sheet.

Hoping to send some account of the opening at "Cosi" to the Herald, and that we may soon have some tidings of the 75th anniversary, I am

Faithfully Yours.

James D. Eaton.

The Leaven at Work.

A. M. Eaton sends the following communication from Chihuahua:-

"About eighty miles west of this city, in the foothills of the Sierra Madre mountains, is the mining town of Cosihuiriachic (pronounced <u>Có-si-wé-re-át-chick</u>, but often shortened familiarly to "<u>Cóosy</u>".)

The most direct road leads through a picturesque Cañon, whose rocky sides exhibit to the imagination a wonderful succession of towers, buttresses, battlements and complete castles built on the frowning heights, and which is traversed by a clear stream of water that the traveler must ford some thirty times in his winding course of ten or twelve miles. Very impressive is it to enter the town at the close

of the day, when the gathering gloom indicates late nightfall, while a glance upward reveals a sky yet bright with sunlight, and solemn mountain heights on either hand suffused with the warm glow of approaching sunset.

Here are the valuable silver mines and newly erected fifty-stamp mill of a company of Boston capitalists, whose expenditures for labor and materials are the chief support of a native population of about two thousand.

To this point, a year ago, the writer journeyed with horse and cart, carrying two boxes of Bibles, Testaments and Gospels with miscellaneous books and tracts, hoping to find a sale for them there and in

another town seventy-five miles further on in this great State of the border, whose area is almost equal to that of New York and Pennsylvania combined. But in the first two days all the copies of the Scriptures were disposed of, and further travel in that direction had to be postponed. This surprising result indicated greater freedom from Roman fanaticism and independence of priestly tyranny than is commonly to be met with in this land, especially in case of the more retired towns, and gave promise of good success in the gospel.

"Six months later, our newly-engaged colporteur was sent into the region, and at once reported large sales, with various

individuals already interested in the truth through their unguided reading, and asking to know the way of God more perfectly.
About this time also, there returned to her home in "Cosi" a widowed mother accompanied by son and daughter, who had spent a year in the city of Chihuahua, where the son heard the gospel and, through diligent reading and constant attendance upon our meetings, was led to accept it as true. His mother and sister, as they now confess, had on various occasions accompanied the young man to the doors of our chapel and, not venturing to enter the forbidden place, had waited outside in the street to listen to the services. But they avoided making the

acquaintance of the missionary when he was seen to approach their little place of business.

"Now mark the change! The missionary and his wife and son, not omitting the horse, have just been entertained for three days by this family, at their own urgent wish, and with every possible attention. Our foreign tastes were politely consulted, mother and daughter insisted upon giving up their chamber for our comfort, and the latter waited upon the table with beautiful courtesy and grace, instead of the servant who dreaded to display her awkwardness before strangers; while the treasures of quince jam and jelly, stored up for the winter, were drawn upon to

such a reckless extent, as to call forth the earnest protests of the guests.

The señora Armendáriz now bears the epithets of "heretic" and "protestant", flung at her by some former friends, with great equanimity, and is equally desirous with her son of seeing the gospel make its way. On Saturday they sent invitations to various houses of their acquaintance to meet us for song, prayer and Scripture reading, in their large front room. About fifteen adults responded, representing five or six of the most respectable families of the town - amongst them the two lady teachers of the only public school for girls. Some plain words were spoken, contrasting the

early simplicity of the Christian assemblies with the elaborate Roman hierarchy and ritual of the present day, conformed to "the traditions of men"; calling attention to the great difference between the modified Roman Catholicism of the United States and that which passes under the name here; exalting the Bible as the safeguard of our liberties, civil and religious, and as the sufficient rule of faith and practice; and proposing that they should meet together regularly for the study of the Book as did the early disciples, even separating themselves from the old Church if necessary, to protest against its corruptions, as did the reformers of the sixteenth century.

"It was thought that perhaps

early simplicity of the Christian assemblies with the elaborate Roman hierarchy and ritual of the present day, conformed to "the traditions of men"; calling attention to the great difference between the modified Roman Catholicism of the United States and that which passes under the name here; exalting the Bible as the safeguard of our liberties, civil and religious, and as the sufficient rule of faith and practice; and proposing that they should meet together regularly for the study of the Book as did the early disciples, even separating themselves from the old Church if necessary, to protest against its corruptions, as did the reformers of the sixteenth century.

"It was thought that perhaps

this plain declaration might have offended some of the hearers; but they returned in the afternoon for another Bible service, and on Monday evening met again, with half a dozen new individuals, to hear the reading of the fifty-third chapter of Isaiah with the marginal references, as an illustration of the method which might be pursued when by themselves.

They have no one to teach them our beautiful Christian hymns, but they expressed willingness to raise money for the purchase of a "Baby Organ" as soon as any one would learn to play it, and it is hoped one of the young ladies may come to Chihuahua for the purpose. "Lesson leaves" and copies of our

"Order of worship" with simple forms of prayer have been sent to aid them; and a box is on the way containing a complete assortment of the Scriptures, books and tracts which will be offered for sale in the same private house.

The circumstances are peculiarly favorable for the propagation of our faith, in that the parish priest is notoriously profligate, ignorant and lazy. When cornered in an argument, he refers his interlocutor to the chief padre in this city "who knows it all"; and he does nothing but "say the mass" in Latin, never preaching a sermon nor giving the religious instruction to the young which is customary. No wonder some of the poor parents are disposed to inquire into the prohibited teachings of those

who offer to do something for them and their children. We were told that it would be well to establish a mission in the town; but we have not even a native preacher to send them. Some retired villages in that region, wholly neglected by the priests, are probably in a similarly receptive condition; and at our stopping-places on this tour with horse and wagon, we learned of children who could be secured for a boarding-school in this city, if there were one.

Why is it that, after three years of anxious waiting, and correspondence had with, or concerning, fifteen or twenty ladies, not one has yet been found to take up this work of teaching children who are ignorant, but quick to learn?

James D. Eaton

Chihuahua, Mexico. Oct. 30. 1885.

Rev. J. D. Eaton.
Chihuahua.
Octr 30. 1885

[illegible]

James D. Eaton.

Chihuahua, Mexico, Oct. 30. 1885.

and help of a lady were invaluable. (The M. E. missionary is expected here next month.) The way was wonderfully prepared for us; and we returned last night with rooms rented and arrangements made.

Yours,
Jas. D. Eaton.

Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.
Chihuahua, Mexico.
Nov. 20. 1885

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark, Secy.,

No. 1. Somerset st., Boston, Mass.

My dear Sir:

Your letter of Nov. 12 brings the gratifying intellence of appropriations made for next year in accordance with our estimates, and the more gratifying announcement of your contemplated visit to this field. We have no choice as to time: but I think Mr. Case will need to be at home sometime during the month of February: will ask him to communicate with you. I do not know whether the stage-ride from Guadalajara could be made equally well in either Jan. or Feby, but presume so.

Your favors of Oct. 28 and Nov. 2 are also in hand. Miss Hicks of Vermont wrote that the state of her health would not allow of her coming to Mexico, at least for the present.

The first half of last week Mrs. Eaton & myself occupied by a trip with horse and buggy to Aldama, a town of two or three thousand souls, 21 or 22 miles to the North-east, where I sold Scriptures & tracts last year, some of which were afterwards publicly burned. The

people are "very Catholic", but, through our personal relations in this city, we made the social acquaintance of the two leading families, and were able to talk of the Bible truths to a few others of the middle class. Last Sunday was passed there by our helper; and we hope soon to have services sustained at regular intervals.

The Southern Methodist native preacher, from San Antonio Texas, has arrived with his family in El Paso, Texas, and is quartered upon our first convert, Felipe Hernandez; whom they appointed "Steward". Felipe & wife have been anxious to return to this city to live; but on Monday last I went up there with Mrs. Eaton, and engaged them to move to Paso del Norte (on this side.) we to furnish them a room to live in, another for meetings, and about half their support, - to secure half their time in gospel work. They can only reach the humble, but the wife is a remarkable woman in her Xn zeal; and the five or six baptized by the Methodists this year are all the spiritual children of this devoted couple. Mrs. E. and myself made the acquaintance of 7 or 8 families on this side, and have no doubt that our workers will win their way. It was difficult for Mrs. E. to leave her home & work, but the presence

Chihuahua Nov. 20, 1883

Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.
Chihuahua, Mexico.
Nov. 25 1885.

Rev. Dr. Clark, For. Secy.
No. 1. Somerset St., Boston, Mass.
My dear Sir:

A letter just received from Bro. Howland of Guadalajara contains a sentence which leads me to regard the union of the two missions as a foregone conclusion: "we are not inclined to oppose such a union, but rather, on many accounts, to favor it".

Recalling your hint (in Sept. last) of a proposal to send me to Spain, I may perhaps be allowed now to make a suggestion or two. In my ignorance of the openings and needs in that country, of the relations sustained with European missionary societies etc., I may speak somewhat wide of the mark, but give my ideas for what they may be worth.

For one thing, I do not regard myself as specially fitted for Theol'l Sem'y work. Yet Wm. H. Gulick, so long on the ground, would perhaps be regarded as the leader and general manager.

According to the cyclopedia, and my experience in Oregon, a climate similar to that of Santander would probably be unfavorable to my health.

As to Mexico: by your own suggestion, I undertook to establish a new mission here, made a preliminary survey, interviewed men and libraries, and finally, gave myself heartily to the work. One of the Prud. Com. said to me privately: "You must succeed, Mr. Eaton" (somewhat to my embarrassment;) it was kindly remarked by yourself: "This old Board can wait"; Dr. Ellinwood in New York said: "I'll allow you ten years to succeed." Besides having had to encounter ordinary obstacles, we have been called to give up a son and our nearest associate, and I narrowly escaped a physical breakdown. Yet we have been blessed much beyond our anticipations; and our numerical progress in the last six months, in Spanish work, has been greater than in all

the preceding period. All of our property rights, by lease and purchase, have been acquired this year. The health of the entire family is better than ever before, and we shall be willing and glad to stay.

While, by nature, I am less averse to change of scene and employment than are many others, I realize that my enlistment in the foreign ranks was rather late and that at the age of thirty-eight (next March '86) it is increasingly difficult to root one's self firmly & fruitfully.

If you must send two men to Spain, my idea would be to designate Howland and perhaps Crawford. I did not accept Bissell when offered by Dr. Alden three years ago, not knowing either the man or the field. But I am prepared to take him now, and think that his preference for the work of teaching may be utilized here at once; as also the services of Miss Haskins if you choose, since we have pupils of both sexes waiting for in-

struction, and are in imminent danger of losing two good families if Protestant advantages are not afforded soon. (They are aiming for the United States.)
Mr. Wright can come later, to enable us to occupy this territory ~~better~~ more fully, viz. Sonora and Sinaloa; and we feel greatly encouraged to this by the vigorous policy of the Home Missy Socy in N. Mexico & Arizona immediately adjoining us.

Mr. Case writes just now: "We are very glad to hear of the beginnings in Paso del Norte, and of your intentions with regard to S. Rosalia. I do most heartily approve of establishing work all along the line just as fast as possible. Our working force out to be more than doubled."

I have reason to believe that he would feel rather deserted if I, who persuaded him to come here, should leave for Spain. The plan now outlined would leave one of the two missions undisturbed. True, it would not be literally a union of the missions, but it would be in part a union of the forces: and it will be peculiarly opportune to

effect the consolidation before the Spring when we want to fit up the "old theater" property. Whatever the decision may be, the sooner it is made, the pleasanter for us personally, and the better for the work.

Not wishing to embarrass your action in any way, and having, I believe, a willingness to go anywhere when the Lord points the way, I am

As always

Most sincerely Yours.

James D. Eaton.

James [illegible]
Chihuahua —
Nov. 25. 1845

Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.
Chihuahua, Mexico.
Dec. 4. 1885

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark. Sec'y.
Cong'l House, Boston, Mass.

My dear Sir:

Your favor of Nov. 27, regarding Miss Bliss of Bangor, Me, is just at hand. Her earnest Christian spirit will more than compensate for a little lack of refinement, and we should favor your speaking to her of Chihuahua, if she is prepared to undertake day school teaching. As intimated in my letter to you of Nov. 25, we seem to require the services of a lady who <u>can</u> teach, even if she have not already experience in that line. If two ladies could be allowed us in this city, then we could take Miss Bliss without this <u>If</u>: for apart from the poor, there are a number of houses of the very best classes in society which have offered to receive Mrs. Eaton as a visitor merely, but where she could undoubtedly win a

hearing for the gospel, had she the time.

But it is simply impossible for her to go much outside of her regular work with the women and children of the congregation and their friends.

As it is, she leaves our own home, where her strong domestic nature would incline her to stay, very much more than many others would be willing to do, and more than some would think she was justified in doing. I rejoice in her doubling the missionary efficiency of this family; but cannot understand why she should have been suffered to stand alone these three years, no one of the fifteen or twenty young ladies with whom we have been in communication, having shown both ability and readiness to come to our aid.

Hoping that your trouble with the eyes may be wholly and speedily removed, I am

Faithfully Yours
James D. Eaton

Chihuahua
Dec. 4, '84

Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.
Chihuahua, Mexico.
Dec. 11. 1885.

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark. Secy.
No. 1. Somerset St., Boston, Mass.

My dear Sir:

If the expected conference is not to be held here until the latter part of January or in February, it occurs to me that it might be very desirable to have before us at that time, reliable information regarding the country and people of Sonora, the state to the westward of us. If Guadalajara be given up, and no other field in central or southern Mexico be occupied in its place, we can hardly do less than enter Sonora as soon as possible, if it be practicable. The yellow fever has been very troublesome in Guaymas and Hermosillo; but higher up the R.R., at Magdalena, there seems to have been comparative security. So far as I know, no mission has been begun in that state. This is the season of year to go with safety to the coast; and for two years past I have felt that the trip ought to be made.

It would be imprudent to attempt now a trip across the mountains, both on account of the weather and the Apaches; but ~~some~~ acquaintance with a few of the leading towns, and some knowledge of the outlying country, by personal inquiry of citizens, could be secured by a R.R. journey, via El Paso. From El Paso to Benson, Arizona, it is 261 miles by Southern Pacific R.R.; from Benson to Nogales (on the border line) 88 miles by New Mexico & Arizona R.R.; from Nogales to Guaymas 265 miles by the Sonora R.R. The last two are really one I suppose, built by the A. T. and S. Fe R.R.

If you think it best for me to go, just after New Year's Day, please advise me, and secure, if feasible, a free pass from Benson to Guaymas and return for 30 days. We also ought to have at least half fare order on So. Pacific from El Paso; but I do not know where the offices are.

I wrote to you Nov. 25 and Dec. 4.

Sincerely Yours.

James D. Eaton.

J. D. Eaton
Dec. 11. '83
Chihuahua

5

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Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.
Chihuahua, Mexico.
Dec. 14. 1885.

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark, Sec'y
No. 1. Somerset st., Boston, Mass
My dear Sir:

Replying to your letter of the 3rd inst., I have not much information to give concerning Durango, in addition to what you possess. The Presbyterians have withdrawn from that city; or rather, never occupied it beyond supporting a lady missionary there for a year or more, - Miss Kate C. MacFarren. We think it possible we may secure her assistance temporarily in this mission. Last winter the So. Methodists sent Rev. McDonell to that point, and Miss MacF. attends his services and helps somewhat.

Of course, if the Methodists do not respect our rights, we need not hesitate to occupy Durango if it seems best. But it may be preferable to turn our attention earlier to Sonora.

From Durango the communication by stage is direct with Mazatlan on

the West coast, state of Sinaloa; and really we ought to have stations in all these four States. The Presbyterians have for some years been working in the "Laguna district", with the center in Lerdo and thereabouts (twelve hours ride from here by Mexican Central R.R.) which is in the edge of the state of Durango, so that they might be a little sensitive about our going into the capital. Yet they ought not to be; for it is almost four years since you proposed to Dr. Ellinwood to take that city ourselves, and he replied that they wished to occupy it.

I think Mr. Haymaker, their newer missionary in Zacatecas, and probably also Mr. Wallace, feel that their claims as against us have been forfeited.

Hoping that you may soon find yourself stronger, and wishing you a "Merry Christmas", I am

As always,

Sincerely Yours

James D. Eaton.

Rev. Jas. D. Eaton,
Chihuahua Dec. 14, '85.
Rec'd Dec. 21.

Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.
Chihuahua, Mexico.
Jan. 1. 1886.

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark, Sec'y,
No. 1. Somerset st., Boston, Mass.

My dear Sir:

Your letter of Dec. 17th with its most gratifying intelligence, (mailed the 23rd) arrived during my absence in Paso del Norte, whither I went to look after our new work, and also to confer with the So. Methodist pastor on the U.S. side of the line: - he and his Mexican helper having asked permission to begin services in our room, until they should find one, which was not an easy task in prospect.

Our "first fruits" have made a visible impression in six weeks, and the Meth. pastor is satisfied that it will be more prudent for us both not to set up housekeeping under the same small roof.

Shortly before leaving home, I received an astounding communication, which seemed to make the trip even more important.

It was a short letter from the So. Methodist miss'y, R. W. MacDonell, of Durango, whose

acquaintance was formed a year ago, enclosing an 8 page letter from my native helper, Rosendo del Valle, whom I engaged in Mexico city, last April, on favorable representations made by the Presb. and No. Meth. missions, by which he had last been employed. The young man has proved to possess many of the unfortunate chacteristics developed by the "subsidy system" in Mexico, and has occasioned me many trials; so much so, that 3 months ago I gave him notice to leave in 30 days; but he improved his conduct so far in that time, that I formed new hopes of him, and, Nov. 1. said he might remain for an indefinite period. The following two months witnessed still greater activity and efficiency, and more respectful bearing. Now all is explained.

His letter revealed the basest treachery, being a confidential report of all the details and inside facts relating to our mission which could possibly be of use to the So. Methodists, at the same time distorted

to quit his purposes. He encouraged the Metho^s to count on a secession from our Congregation to theirs, and even proposed to deliver his class (S.S.) of young men as candidates for the ministry; though the Christians amongst them had mainly been led into the Kingdom by my wife when she was their teacher, and one of them has for three months been consulting with me regarding the best plan to pursue in preparing himself for the ministry. — revealing his desires first to us.

His letter, dated Dec. 8, (and referring to one of like import which had been written a month before, but not acknowledged,) closed with effusive expressions of delight at the prospect of a speedy coming of the So. Methodists, and an offer to be made of use by them in any way possible.

Mr. MacDonell wrote: "I do not know whether del Valle is connected with you or not, but that you may see what he is I send you his communication. I have written Bro. S. G. Kilgore to have nothing to

do with him. I know him well, and know that he will not do to tie to. He was in our Church first, in '81 to '83, and was turned off, having been caught trying to swindle Dr. Patterson, in which he did a good deal of lying. Since then he was with the Presbyterians and the Northern Methodists." x x x Hope you and Kilgore will work together harmoniously."

Kilgore is expected daily, and I left with the El Paso man a cordial invitation for him to come to my house on arrival, for a few days. It is thought that he will commence work in another part of the city, and will be disposed to coöperate for good ends. Oh! that this hope may be realized! MacDonell's frankness has given me a good chance, and I am using it for all it is worth.

I have dismissed del Valle, on former terms, viz. one months salary and traveling expenses, (if he will be good enough to leave!) and spent the last two days in making a thorough exposure of him by visiting nearly every member of the congregation.

We know that God can bring good out of this seeming evil, and believe that he will. We had an unusually full and solemn meeting last evening, and expect a blessing in the week of prayer.

We are now thankful that del Valle was not finally dismissed in Oct., before this full exposure of his character was made. And I am inclined to think, moreover, that the money spent in bringing him here was well invested, in that it has thus early convinced me of the evils of the policy to which I was tempted to conform in a measure, and has furnished a striking object lesson for the native brethren, some of whom have suffered from the vanity and arrogance of this product of denominational rivalry and lavish use of foreign money, leading to parasitism & hypocrisy. We think the atmosphere has cleared somewhat.

The following tri-lemma presents itself: (1.) We must fall in with the system to hold our own; or,

(2.) Abandon the field; or,

3. Stand for the right. The last must win in the end. Whether it will gain early success or not, must depend in a measure upon what arrangement I can make with Kilgore.

We are exceedingly sorry that your state of health may prevent your coming for a visit. Some conference seems very desirable.

That Miss B. W. Ferris, whose name is proposed to us, seems to possess nearly all the qualifications sought for. It is truly refreshing in these days to hear of such a ready, cheerful, self-sacrificing, sensible, thoroughly Christian young woman. Do let us know that she is really coming to Chihuahua, and that soon.

Hoping that this may find you feeling stronger, and that our trials here may not draw too largely upon your vital fund, I am, as ever,

Sincerely Yours.

James D. Eaton.

Chihuahua, Jan. 1. 1886,
Rec'd Jan. 9.

Mission of the A.B.C.F.M.
Chihuahua, Mexico.
Jan. 30, 1886.

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark, Secy,
No. 1. Somerset St, Boston, Mass.
My dear Sir:

Your favor of the 20th inst. has come to hand by the last mail; and I hasten to say that Mrs. Eaton has already written to Miss B. W. Ferris, in response to the latter's questions, stating that we can place at her disposal a bed-room suite of furniture, but suggesting that she may like to bring a carpet to cover the brick floor of a room 13 ft. 2 in. square: also bedding and towels. Sheets and pillow-slips can be packed in with the personal apparel without exciting questions from the custom-house officials, and a second-hand carpet, rolled up and brought in with the baggage, would not pay, probably, any "duty", which generally is high.

Every experienced traveller in Mexico brings his roll of blankets or comforters across the border with him, and is never

molested. It is best to manifest no reluctance whatever to open baggage at the call of the officials, and then they are always courteous.

No passport is needed. It would be prudent to be revaccinated.

Miss Ferris' letter led us to think that she would probably be so fortunate as to have you for her escort by the way; but as you say nothing of this, I will add that Secy Humphrey secures half fare tickets over any line to Kansas City from Chicago: but as there would be a saving in time by going direct to St. Louis from the East, the difference in cost may not be worth considering.

The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fé R.R. is the only line to El Paso which makes close connections with our Mexican Central, and has always given half fare when applied to in season beforehand. In Paso del Norte (Mexican side of the Rio Grande), in the station exchange U.S. money for Mexican, enough to pay for ticket $11.00,

(Lady missionaries no longer have half fare,) Berth *2 –, and overweight baggage at about 3½ cents per lb., for all over 32 lbs. To reach this city on Saturday A.M. (6.50 o'clock) it is necessary to leave K. City on Wednesday A.M. But, one day later would answer. West of the Missouri River meals cost 75 cents and occasionally one dollar. But there are lunch counters for coffee, tea & sandwiches; and with a well-stocked basket of our own, we have not needed often to enter the dining-rooms.

We had not dared to build much on the hope of Miss F's coming, and her letter had all the charm of a delightful surprise. It came when Mrs. Eaton especially was feeling worn and almost disheartened, with so much crying to be done, and only one pair of hands and one nervous system to respond to the call! A few months more, and I hope we may welcome Mr. Wright.

The So. M. E. missionary arrived Jan. 17th and has been a guest in our house ever since, preaching for me on Sunday. He is tall, slender, rather frail, and boyish-looking, though 27 or 28 years of age; — engaged to be married during the year. Has been in the work a little longer than we have.

We like the spirit he manifests very much, and believe that our relations will be fraternal and Christian. I have done, & shall do, all that is possible to this end.

Can you tell yet whether, and when, it will be practicable to hold the Conference here? I had hoped to accomplish the long-deferred organization of our little church at that time, with the view of making a deeper impression upon the native brethren,

Yours, in the Master's service,

James D. Eaton.

Chihuahua, Jan. 30. 1886,
Rec'd Feb. 8.

Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.
Chihuahua, Mexico.
Feb. 9. 1886

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark, Sec'y,
Boston, Mass,
My dear Sir:

Letters received this A.M. from Mr. & Mrs. Howland, show that they had not yet had definite word regarding the proposed "conference"; and an expression used by the latter, indicates that it has not been finally decided to give up Western Mexico, at which I rejoice; for withdrawal would weaken the relative influence of our Board in Mexico. Besides, we cannot escape the Methodists by concentrating here. The superintendent of the "Border Mission" of that church, Mr. Sutherland, spent last Sunday here, & preached for me, besides holding a meeting of his own in our Chapel on Saturday evening (for which we (our members) furnished most of the congregation, while I led the singing.) He expressed willingness

to have an understanding as to the division of the ground here in this State until the working forces should be greater; but said he hoped before many years to have a preacher of his church stationed "in every place of importance between here and the Pacific ocean". He started for Durango yesterday; and will visit Mexico city, partly in the hope of getting missionaries there to agree to adopt wiser methods in the expenditure of funds. May success attend his efforts! The cause in Mexico today is suffering from the injudicious use of foreign money in the past.

Jan. 30. I answered your inquiries as to the best place for Miss Ferris' journey. The M.E. missy., Mr. Kilgore, wishes to establish himself in a somewhat different quarter of the city; but I think the Supt. would like to secure our rented chapel today if it were vacant, tho' the new property is only two blocks away! Cordially yrs.

James D. Eaton

Feb. 9. 1886

Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.
Chihuahua, Mexico.
Feb. 23, 1886

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark, Sec'y,
No. 1. Somerset st., Boston, Mass.

My dear Sir:

Your letter of the 15th inst. and postscript of the 16th. are at hand this A.M. Regarding Mr. A. C. Wright;— I had already heard from him of his plans, and answered, approving his idea of coming here without delay, and giving him needful directions,— under date of the 20th.

As to Miss Keyes; I will write today to Bro. Case, asking him to communicate directly with you. As Mr. & Mrs. Case both sing, and the latter plays the instrument, they will probably feel ready to accept the lady.

We are experiencing the delights of denominationalism: about fifteen persons have, so far, left our congregation for the Methodists, not one, however, of those baptized by myself. This secession

does not, however, meet the approval of Bro. Kilgore, who seems to be of one mind with us. I really think that he regrets having been sent to this city, which had already been reasonably well occupied. He has about said as much. But we cannot favor his leaving, because Mr Sutherland would probably put another in his place, who would not be so liberal.

Last Sunday AM. appeared the representative of a third Board, the "Cumberland Presbyterian". But he says he only proposes to spend 3 or 4 months here in the study of the language, afterwards to locate elsewhere, - perhaps in Sonora.

Oh! that we may have that conference

In joyful hope of your coming,
As ever yours,
James D. Eaton.

P.S.

Your letter of Feb. 2, (mailed the 5th) arrived on the 13th; and I will send something to that plucky home missionary in Minn, Mr Kaufman.

J.D.E.

Chihuahua, Feb. 23, '86

Rec'd Mar. 2.

W. ✓

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Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.
Chihuahua, Mexico.
Mar. 8. 1886.

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark, Secy.
Boston, Mass.
My dear Sir:

Your letter of Feb. 25 preceded the arrival of Miss Ferris by only a day. She appeared at the promised hour, and is likely to keep all of her engagements. Began Spanish lessons in 24 hours, and now takes our boy's lessons off Mrs. Eaton's hands. Is eager for work, and wants to exercise economy. She is full of ideas, and refreshingly helpful in spirit. We already feel much strengthened, and thank you a thousand times for sending her. The next blessing will be the Conference!

But a dark shadow rests over us in the severe illness of Mrs. Eaton's mother in Montclair N.J. It is harder, in some respects to be only five days from home than to be as many weeks!

Respectfully Yours,
James D. Eaton.

Chihuahua, Mar. 8, '86

Rec'd Mar. 16.

Adams

Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.
Chihuahua, Mexico.
Mar. 23. 1886.

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark,

My dear Sir:

I have your brief communications of the 3rd and 13th inst., the latter announcing plans unchanged regarding the conference.

Mrs. Eaton will esteem it a great privilege to have you as our guest in the home; and she hopes to entertain one of the missionaries by lodging him in my study. For the others, and for Mr. and Miss Burr, rooms will be engaged at one of the "American" hotels.

We expect to derive great benefit from your visit, in more ways than one. Trusting this may find you safe and well in Las Vegas, I remain

Faithfully Yours,
James D. Eaton.

James D. Eaton
March 28th 1886

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Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.
Chihuahua, Mexico.
Apr. 19. 1886.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D.
Boston, Mass.
My dear Friend:

Your were very kind and thoughtful to send us from Chicago tidings of your progress by rail; and now today's mail brings us glowing reports of your visit in Montclair. How can we ever thank you enough for doing us so great a favor!

We hope you have taken since, a little time for rest; for you certainly did not spare yourself while here. We felt almost guilty for having allowed you to pour forth so unrestrainedly, for our enjoyment and profit, your garnered treasures of wisdom and grace.

We are feeling the impulse given by the Conference, as expected. April 11th the fullest S. School since the M.E. division; and yesterday, a further advance. I send you also

a copy of a local paper, with three articles marked; two showing how the liberals regard the operations of the Italian padre in raising money from this State, and the other giving the new prospectus of the "Colegio Mariano", of which mention was made in our meetings.

Repairs on the School building are in active operation. Almanza would not be driven out April 5, as his new room is not yet ready. So I compromised by extending his time 30 days, collecting full rent in advance, and obtaining a written agreement, duly stamped & witnessed, to leave the plaza de gallos May 5, — couched in the most positive terms. Mr. Burr's question as to taxes on inheritances was very timely. They are exceedingly heavy on property transferred to foreigners; — nothing, when left to members of same family. I shall soon propose a different plan.

Cordially and gratefully Yours.
James D. Eaton.

Chihuahua, Apr. 19, '86
Rec'd Apr. 26.

Mr. Eaton 1 318

Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.
Chihuahua, Mexico.
May 19. 1886.

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark, Secy,
Boston, Mass,
My dear Sir:

Your kind letter of April 30, (mailed May 3) was duly received, and the welcome information regarding Miss Keyes' appointment, was at once conveyed to Parral. Mr. Case had to wait on Dr. Paschal's convenience, the latter being called to Mexico; and now the extreme heat (for 10 days ranging from 92° to 96° in the shade of our fig-tree, at noon, and from 82° to 92°. at six P.M.) would seem to increase the risks connected with the operation. A few days will determine plans.

Our work continues encouraging. 59 at the Mexican S. School last week, - the largest yet since the M.E. diversion; and 60, or more, at the Wednesday P.M. prayer-meeting. Each week I am meeting ten adults, to instruct them in Articles of Faith & covenant & matters of Christian duty, who will be baptized at the next Communion. On Sunday, the 9th inst.

I preached on "Giving as an act of worship", and distributed "mite chests" amongst the families, to receive *special* offerings in aid of the new chapel &c. Before the sermon was concluded, an old lady, a washer-woman, marched up to the pulpit and handed me a dollar "bill".

The day school has opened with much promise this month, and has already at least thirty pupils, - 29 in attendance yesterday. Miss Ferris' bump of order and system is not developed, but Mrs. Eaton helped in classifying pupils and arranging schedule. Miss F's lack of accuracy is against her in this work, and in learning the language; but we think her indefatigableness and unfailing good temper will remedy much, and carry her successfully through. I send by this mail sample Prospectus and Monthly Reports of the "College", as every private school is called here.)

Expenditures for school fittings, of course unprovided for in estimates

made last year, will be reported as soon as all bills are in. Also, cost of repairs on Chapel and book depository; - which are under way. Recently I was able to obtain estimates on cost of roofing, flooring &c. the circular "cock-pit", for main audience-room, from a more competent person than was within reach last Fall, - one who built two or three Churches in Chicago, superviged work on the Montezuma Hotel, Las Vegas, and was more recently contractor on the Mexican Central R.R. He says that the upper part of the circular wall on the right of the stage is not strong enough without being rebuilt, and that the circular roof, added, would cost several hundred dollars more than to tear down the circle, make it over into cheap adobes for two new straight walls and put on an ordinary roof. But at the best, his figures are too high for us just now; and I have thought

it wiser to defer such building for a year or two, if our Congregation does not grow too rapidly, and see what individual interest may be roused, to save the Board's treasury somewhat. Meanwhile $50 ~~$100~~ or 50, added to previous estimates for repairs, will throw the "drinking-saloon" into one with that large billiard-room & let in light, to accommodate at least fifty people more. April 10th, fearing disappointment in getting prompt possession of the "Plaza de Gallos", I compromised with Sr. Almanza, giving him the 30 days he wanted, & taking increased rent in advance, and the strongest kind of written & witnessed agreement to vacate May 5. Result: all the keys were in my pocket at the time specified. Almanza carried off the old wooden floor which he put down 13 years ago, and Mr. Hagelsieb has commenced suit to recover it or "damages". But it is a small matter: we have a bargain even though we should leave the "cock-pit

and central lots unimproved. What we are paying this year for rent of Chapel alone, $480 Mexican, would be good interest on the purchase price & improvements added, say $6,000 Mex. or a trifle more. Annual tax is but $37.50. Perhaps later we can avoid this. The renovated residence and school part would easily be worth another $480. We paid $660 the last year in that house of Miss Capoudade. Of course we do not get new buildings for this sum; but we do get a new stone sidewalk on the school &c. front, a half dozen new doors, some glass in windows; & repairs to roofs: & it ought to be years before the old "vigas" (round rafters) have to be replaced with new ones.

There is nothing new about the So. Methodists. Only Mr. Kilgore left, some weeks ago, to be married, and proposed <u>nothing</u> in the way of "union" meetings during his absence, as I had done before.

In "Cosi", very little was done, because we ran into a Mexican "revolution"; but no harm came to us: and I sent an account to the "Cong^st." asking them to hand it to Dr. Strong, if not available for their columns.

It has brought me serious disappointment to have the partial numbness of the feet (experienced since my prostration in September 1883.) extend upward into the calves of the legs during the past few weeks; and the Cases and Miss Ferris declare positively that I must stop work for the hottest months & go North. Mrs. Eaton, too, has lost her appetite and is much debilitated, - indeed, is on her back in bed the past two days. It looks as if we should have to avail ourselves of those "passes" to Kansas City & back, kindly furnished by Mr. Burr; and I do not know as we need to have a formal vote of the Board to authorize our search for a "sanitarium" "over the line", - after what you said while here. We could not afford to pay board bills in Colorado e.g., & it will cost even less to reach Lancaster, Wisc. than to get to Chicago.

The Cases are willing to move to Chihuahua for the summer, if necessary to get me to go: but they prefer to keep things moving there in Parral; & I shall try to make some other arrangement here. The day-school itself will furnish a center of influence, as Miss Ferris says; and she is brave & capable.
We ought to leave by June 1st; and in a month more Mr. Wright would be here to attend to some routine business, while I could make out Annual report & Estimates, and Semi-annual balance-sheet for Mr. Ward, in Lancaster.

Two years ago Dr. Humphrey proposed that I address some of the Churches in his vicinity on Mexican Missions, but distrust of my physical strength led me to decline. Whether I could wisely attempt such service this year or not, cannot yet be known. Your impression would be gratefully received. The saving effected

by the above-mentioned "passes" almost exactly equals the grant-in-aid voted me two years ago; and I expect, with economy, to be able to meet the travelling expenses without any addition to my salary.

If you have occasion to send me word in quick response, will you kindly telegraph, as June 1st. will soon be here? If no such telegram is received by the end of the month, I shall infer that you do not object to the plan. Of course we desire the full approval of the Prud. Committee in making choice of place for summer vacation, which was not taken anywhere last year.

Rev. H. C. Thompson passed through here last week. When taken to task for spending money so freely on the Mexicans, he replied that supplies were now being cut off somewhat, and they would "have to learn to swim or sink". Good.

Hoping this may find you in reasonably good health, I remain

Yours sincerely

James D. Eaton

Chihuahua, May 17, 86

Rec'd May 27.

Por $ N.º 319

COLEGIO CHIHUAHUENSE.

Recibí del Sr.

la cantidad de

por la enseñanza de niño

correspondiente al presente mes.

Chihuahua, de 188

Colegio Chihuahuense.

Boletin Mensual de la Alumna

....

.... *de* 188

Asistencia	*Aritmética* ....
Puntualidad	*Geografía* ....
Conducta............	*Gramática* ....
Lectura en Español..	*Historia*...........
Lectura en Inglés...	*Música vocal*.......
Ortografía..........	*Dibujo lineal* ......
Caligrafía	

(**Explicacion**: **5** significa *perfectamente bien;* **4** *muy bien;* **3** *regular;* **2** *mal;* **1** *muy mal.*)

.... Preceptora.

(Firma de uno de los padres.)

....

Imp. de G. Hagelsieb.

320

COLEGIO CHIHUAHUENSE.

Boletin Mensual del Alumno

....

.... *de* 188 .

Asistencia	*Aritmética* ....
Puntualidad	*Geografía* ....
Conducta	*Gramática* ....
Lectura en Español ..	*Historia* ....
Lectura en Inglés ...	*Música vocal* ......
Ortografía	*Dibujo lineal* ......
Caligrafía	

(EXPLICACION: **5** significa *perfectamente bien;* **4** *muy bien;* **3** *regular;* **2** *mal;* **1** *muy mal.*)

.... PRECEPTORA.

(Firma de uno de los padres.)

....

Imp. de G. Hagelsieb.

321

COLEGIO CHIHUAHUENSE.

Se pone en conocimiento de los padres de familia, que desde esta fecha queda abierto en la calle de Pilares número 4, un establecimiento de enseñanza para niños y niñas.

Además de los ramos comunes que comprende la instrucción primaria, se enseñará Música, Dibujo y Gimnástica en ejercicios de orden y autogimnasia, para procurar el desarrollo armonioso de las facultades físicas del alumno.

Próximamente quedarán establecidas en este plantel, clases especiales de idiomas clásicos y modernos; pero desde luego se ministrará la enseñanza prefiriendo los textos en inglés para proporcionar el conocimiento de este idioma por cuantos medios sean posibles.

No deseando el suscrito lucrar con el presente establecimiento, cobrará la ínfima cuota de tres pesos fuertes al mes por alumno, haciendo una rebaja á los padres de familia que presenten dos ó más niños.

Chihuahua, Mayo 3 de 1886.

DIRECTOR,

James D. Eaton.

No. 1.

322

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

This Company TRANSMITS and DELIVERS messages only on conditions limiting its liability, which have been assented to by the sender of the following message. Errors can be guarded against only by repeating a message back to the sending station for comparison, and the company will not hold itself liable for errors or delays in transmission or delivery of Unrepeated Messages, beyond the amount of tolls paid thereon, nor in any case where the claim is not presented in writing within sixty days after sending the message.
This is an UNREPEATED MESSAGE, and is delivered by request of the sender, under the conditions named above.

THOS. T. ECKERT, General Manager. NORVIN GREEN, President.

NUMBER	SENT BY	REC'D BY	CHECK
534	KS	pn 11 Collect	13 75

Received at 109 State Street, Boston. Jun 1 1886

Dated Lancaster Wis

To Rev Dr N G Clark
one Somerset St
Boston

Send Crawford wife better
return soon to Chihuahua
until July

James D Eaton

Lancaster, Wisc, June 1/86

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark, Sec'y,
Boston, Mass.
My dear Sir:

Acting on the suggestion contained in your letter of 29th May, I have just telegraphed as follows: "Send Crawford. Wife better. Return soon to Chihuahua until July."

After Mrs. Eaton had lain in bed for six days, with the prospect of remaining there all summer, unless some heroic measures were adopted, I decided to bring her to Lancaster, & return at once to Chihuahua for the month of June, or as much longer as the weather and my strength might permit, - to conclude repairs on buildings, make out annual report & estimates, semi-annual Treasurer's balance-sheet, quarterly colporteur accounts, receive new members, and welcome Mr. Wright &c. We arrived here at midnight, Friday the 28th, and I was to have started back this A.M.; but physician and friends all protest so stoutly, that I

have decided to delay about one week). The reaction from the strain in Mexico has left me strangely weak and nerveless; but this cool air and good food will build me up. Miss Ferris writes that she does not want to see me "for a fortnight", if I am to offer her "such a cold, nerveless hand" as was presented last week.

It was my proposal to Mr. Case that he bring his family to Chihuahua for the summer, and he assented, but with explanations that to my mind were decisive in the negative. Briefly: he "could not hope to do much, the spirit being willing, but the flesh weak"; the surgical operation would lay him aside for six weeks, or half of my absence; Mrs. Case could not promise to do any part of Mrs. E's work for women; the moving of two children, aged 17 and 5 months respectively, looked formidable to them; Miss Ferris dreaded the possibility of one of them falling sick, when new burdens would be laid upon her shoulders.

Rev. A. H. Whatley, the Cumberland Presbyterian, promised to prepare a short sermon for last Sunday, and encouraged me to think

that I might possibly be able to engage his services as "supply" for two or three months, if desired, although his "Board" wish him to proceed to Aguascalientes as soon as convenient.

Of the So. Methodists I have not much fear at present, because their evident partisanship has seemed to make our own people more loyal and staunch.

If Crawford consents to join the No. Mission, and immediately, it would be well to have him supply Chihuahua now. At any rate he could not, probably, move to Sonora with safety until cooler weather. Mr. Whatley has no idea of occupying that state. He thinks it will be either Durango or Aguascalientes.

Mr. Crawford has sent me a long list of additions he wants made to the "Manual". I have accepted them all, and thrown out all of my proposed devotional, marriage, baptismal, Lord's supper &c. forms; but have given him to understand that he must translate and prepare for the press these additions. No answer yet.

My wife was brought away not a day too soon, but is improving.

Hoping and praying that I may be granted strength to resume my work, after an absence of two Sundays, for a few important weeks, I am, as always,

Faithfully Yours.

James D. Eaton.

Lancaster, June 1, 1886.
Rec'd June 4.

Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.
Chihuahua, Mexico.
June 15, 1886.

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark,
Boston, Mass,
My dear Sir:

Your favor of June 3rd regarding my telegram, was received in Lancaster Monday a.m. the 7th inst, a few minutes before starting back to Mexico. I should not have telegraphed unless ordered to do so, and regret that the phraseology proved obscure. My letter of same date must soon have made all clear. Your letter of May 19 was remailed to Lancaster: but its questions had been answered in a long letter of mine of same date, which you have.

The "Mission Stories" arrived in perfect order, and furnish Howard a choice book for Sunday reading. It is beautifully gotten up. Please accept renewed thanks for your kindness.

The first day after my return, Sunday the 13th (for a slight accident caused a day's loss of time,) was trying to flesh & spirit in my jaded condition, although Mr. Coxe preached for me in

the A.M. For I had to talk with all the "brethren", besides working hard in a long session of the Sunday School. The attendance at the latter was the largest yet, since the Methodist diversion, and 22 women were at their Tuesday afternoon meeting last week. Mr. Kilgore has returned with his bride: but Mr. Whatley (Cumb. Presb.) who conducted our service May 30, left this A.M. for Aguascalientes, his new field. Mr. Case went by same train, as I think my strength will be equal to a few weeks' work at least. We talked much yesterday, making estimates for 1887, etc.

He has told you that the operation will not be performed, as Dr. Paschal thinks the risk to life would be too great, and his system may work off the disease, as now aided. He offers to come back to "supply" here at any time, if I send for him. I think I wrote of the "Congt." containing my account of the revolution in "Coosi"; date May 20. The day school is getting on encouragingly. Repairs to property will soon be finished.

Faithfully Yours.

James D. Eaton.

Recd June 22.

Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.
Chihuahua, Mexico.
July 7. 1886.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D.
Boston, Mass.

My dear Sir:

Enclosed please find estimates for necessary expenditures for the coming year, 1887. They were prepared in outline by Mr. Case and myself in careful consultation June 14th. What additions should be made in view of Mr. Crawford's transfer to this mission, I am not able to say. For, besides salary, there will be rents, & some other bills to pay.

Since last writing, I have received your kind letters of June 5th, 9th + 22d regarding Mr. Crawford's transfer and the state of health of Mrs. Eaton and myself.

A cordial epistolary welcome was sent to Bro. Crawford, and he announces his intention to start July 13th to reach here the 17th inst. I have suggested to Mr. Wright that the Crawfords might soon have a room or two ~~fitted up~~ furnished for them in his house, and secure table board

at the "Smith house" close by at about the cost of house-keeping. The Wrights will stay in my house about two months, or until Mrs. W. can get a little language and acquaintance with domestic ways here. Miss Keyes is with us also, & thinks of staying about as long, to get a start in Spanish with a good teacher.

The teacher was pleased with Wright's first lesson, and thinks he "will catch on readily". He will keep the Mission accts in my absence, having received some suggestions. He seems to have business "faculty", and an excellent spirit, and I anticipate good success for him in the work. Mrs. W. is thoroughly capable and lady-like; but she is very slender and rather frail-looking. Miss Keyes, however, brings up the average well in weight. She did not arrive in good condition, having almost starved herself on the road in order to have a small balance to turn over to me from her $100 - You know the meaning of "$1.60 per

meals." She was probably a little down-spirited in consequence, but is now feeling better every way.

As to our family health; the last two letters from my wife breath a more buoyant spirit, and report that she has at length begun to make substantial gains. For myself, I have been back 3½ weeks, working harder, with the extras, than, on an average, during the past two years. It would be more acceptable to me to "take a whipping" than to leave the work at all. But nobody seems to agree to my staying, and I can see that even if I should get through the next two or three months without a formal breakdown, my vitality would probably be too low for a vigorous campaign in the Fall & Winter. So I yield, and expect to cross the border next week; and may be addressed in Lancaster. Wisc.

Meanwhile, after cleaning up some few business matters, I must spend

a day or two, or several of them, in Paso del Norte, where our worker, Felipo Hernandez is in trouble. His whipping a boy, who has been in his charge for several years, was seized upon, by a long-time troublesome R. Cath. neighbor, as a pretext for complaint to the authorities, who arrested him & threw him into jail, where he has been 19 days, without even a farce of a trial. No one cares to take his part, because he is a heretic, and the local paper published him as a "Ministro Protestante" in disgrace. I was hoping he might get out without my being involved in any way, and contented myself with writing letters to his wife. But I cannot leave him defenseless much longer, and shall take a letter to an influential lawyer who may be able to see that justice is done.

This will, temporarily, have an unfortunate effect upon our work there; but the All-wise can overrule even this for our good. It is surprising how cares have multiplied since my return.

Does that indicate that I should have remained away? or, as I believe, that it was best for me to do what I could for this short month?

Mr. Crawford cannot probably do much more than keep up the meetings of the week. Repairs to buildings are done, except some small jobs, for which he is not needed. This is not a good time to go into the country; & Mr. Wright can attend to the "business", as I have left all plain for him, and already settled some of it for him in advance. So much care is necessary in receiving members, having previous acquaintance with them, that Mr. C. cannot well attend to it. We baptized, last Sunday, the ten adults who have been under instruction (special) three months, at a fully attended and very impressive service. This was almost worth returning for, as they had had the promise for so long.

(over)

Faithfully Yours
James D. Eaton.

P.S.

Yesterday, the semi-annual balance sheet for Treas. Ward was mailed, and before that, the quarterly Bible report to H. P. Hamilton, Mexico. The Annual Report of the Mission will probably be sent you in a short time.

It was your suggestion at the Conference, I think, to have the year end Mar. 31, and the Report forwarded soon after, instead of in August, as I have done heretofore. Will try to come to time next year.

J. D. E.

July 2, 1884

Paso del Norte, Mexico,
July 13. 1886.

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark,
Boston, Mass.
My dear Sir:
Four solid days have I put in here, gathering information and chasing around after the officers of the law. They now promise me to have the case settled in a few days, - not to exceed six, - or 30 days from the date of arrest, and to count the past days as the penalty, according to Mexican custom. We shall see. But I do not feel warranted in spending more of strength and money by waiting longer, especially as the Jefe himself (mayor) and another citizen of some influence engage to do what they can to see justice done. I believe they at least do not want to see us make capital out of a case of

religious persecution. Felipe humbly acknowledges his fault in chastizing the boy so severely, and sees that he will have to conduct himself with great circumspectness, to correct the ill impression that has been made. The shade of persecution he has suffered (for he has been treated rigorously in the prison, and mocked by his fellows, and the food brought by his wife has sometimes been ordered away,) enables us to put a better face on the matter.

He might be sent elsewhere, only there is no one to take his place. On the 7th inst. were sent our Estimates for '87, and soon after the Annual Report of the Mission. I go to Chicago this week, to consult a specialist whom my friends are anxious for me to see, hoping to join my wife in Lancaster, Wis, the first of the week following. Although my weight is but 138 lbs, I don't think I have lost any ground since June 7th in general strength.

Faithfully Yours.

James D. Eaton.

Rec'd July 19.

Lancaster, Wisconsin,
Saturday, July 24/86.

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark, Sec'y,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:

I have your very kind note of the 21st inst. and will endeavor to obey its injunctions, - all except as to the literal "twenty pounds" gain. For I want to be back at my post by September 15th, - or two months from the time of leaving Mexico. Last Saturday was spent in Chicago, for the sake of consultation with a specialist, Dr. Brower, which my friends insisted upon. He was urged by me to make his report as favorable to my continuance in the Mexican work as he could, consistent with the facts; and it was disappointing to have him name five months as the needful period of annual absence, - a recommendation utterly impracticable of course. I am ready to

cut down his figure to three months, or, probably, to two. Why? (1) Since the prostration of Sept. '83, I have been gaining ground; although no vacation was accepted last year; and the heat of the past month in Chihuahua was endured pretty well. (2.) Very few persons can command ideal conditions for the maintenance of the highest state of health in work.

My objection to being treated differently from the other missionaries is very strong: but the Board must decide this. It seems unavoidable that a vacation of, say, two months be taken in cooler regions each summer, perhaps three months in the first season. Fortunately, the need occurs when touring in the country is never undertaken, and one missionary in Chihuahua can attend to all important business. Until now, there never has been one to fall back upon.

I need not always come so

far as this. Perhaps R.R. favors might be secured in other directions, as to San Diego, Cal., where are sea breezes: and the trips be made without expense to the Board, beyond the salary, as this year by Mr. Burr's kindness.

Please convey to me the wishes of the Board in this matter, in order that I may have time to lay other plans for next year (1887-8) if it be not deemed expedient to grant an annual vacation to a missionary off his field.

As to the organ, mark it Rev. A. B. Case, C/o Camargo, Chichester & Co., El Paso, Texas. Send invoice to the firm, giving value & gross weight, and ask them to re-ship to Jimenez station Mex. Cent. R.R., & notify Mr. Case in Parral. They may send their bill to Rev. A. C. Wright, Chihuahua if the business is Mr. C's private affair.

and [illegible] overexertion of body and mind.
A residence in Mexico for several months
of the year is doubtless of advantage to him,
but a residence there during the hot
months would be a great injury to him.
Five months of the year he should live in
a cooler climate.

2 The chronic malarial poisoning, will yield to
a prolonged medical treatment such as
has been indicated to him.

3. The spinal disease is rapidly improving — and will advance to complete
recovery, under the same hygienic conditions
as are indicated for his heart disease.

I have no doubt (with the carefulness
I have indicated) that Mr. Eaton can do
efficient work for seven months of the
year in Mexico, for many years to come.

Respectfully

D. R. P. Brower

all overexertion of body and mind.

Office, 64 State, cor. Randolph. Hours, [illegible]
571 W. Adams. Hours till 8 a. m. and 6 to 7 p. m.

Chicago, July 17th 1886

After careful examination of Rev: James D. Eaton - I have reached the following conclusions -

1st - He has a valvular lesion of the heart.

2. He has chronic malarial poisoning

3: He has some slight remains of a disease of the spinal cord.

The disorder of the heart is not curable, but nature has to an unusual degree compensated for the trouble, and with proper care it will not much cut short his career of usefulness -

This proper care consist in a close attention to all those rules of hygiene, that will give him the greatest possible body vigor - avoiding all undue mental excitement

ill overexertion of body and mind.

Do not allude to it in writing to Miss Ferris (for praise, public, is distasteful to her;) but she leaves $15. of her salary each month with the Mission Treas, to be applied to Mission objects as she may elect. She has distinctly stated to me that she does not want to save one cent of the salary. But as clothes need to be replaced, she cannot maintain this rate, because after paying board & washing bills, there remain but $20 Mexican. Her income is less than that of some Mexican women in our public schools.

Content to know that God rules, and that "Right the day must win", I am.

Faithfully Yours.

James D. Eaton.

July 24, 1886

Lancaster, Wisc. July 28/86

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark, Secy,
Boston, Mass.

My dear Sir:

Will you please add $60.^{00}$ to the estimated payment for rent in Parral in 1887? Mr. Case writes that he hopes to accommodate Miss Keyes' school, at first, by an enlargement of the chapel, which will increase the monthly rent by five dollars. So that he needs $660.^{00}$ Mexican, for chapel, residence (including room for Miss Keyes,) & school, instead of $600.^{00}$ as asked for July 7th.

Respectfully Yours.
James D. Eaton
Treasurer "Mission to Northern Mexico."

Lancaster, July 28, '86

Rec'd. July 31.

Estimate

Mission to Northern Mexico.

Lancaster, Wisc, Aug. 19/86.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D.

My dear Sir:

Mr. Case of Parral requests permission to expend "not less than $75 Mexican silver, in fitting up a school room for Miss Keyes. He cannot have included any maps or charts in this estimate: for in Chihuahua the entire sum would be needed to purchase twenty of the plainest possible desks. But Mr. C. can use Mexican carpenters to do what he wants under his own direction, very economically as to labor. Some discretionary power beyond the amount named may be desirable.

I have just written Mr. Ward of our intention to start back to Mexico on Aug. 28th or 30th, spending the week following in Chicago, to put ourselves in contact with Christ-

ian activities in that city. We desire to spend Sunday, Sept. 12 in Paso del Norte, if possible, to carry good cheer to the afflicted brethren there. Felipe was given his liberty about a week after the date promised me by the judge. Mrs. Eaton & myself are not very strong yet, but we are much better, and do not think a few weeks more or less, after Sept. 15 can make much difference. I should prefer to leave her at the North (to keep her from the work) for six months or a year, but she will not consent to this, promising however to be moderate.
Since leaving El Paso, July 13th, I have gained in flesh 11 1/2 lbs., and that through a trying summer for this region. It is this annual loss of flesh in summer, in Mexico, beyond what is normal, which makes my physicians so obstinate in insisting upon a temporary

absence.

It is not possible adequately to express my appreciation of the extreme kindness and considerate indulgence of the Prudential Committee, as shown in their action reported in your favor of the 4th inst. Their response to my presentation of the case goes far beyond anything that could have been expected. Indeed, no further degree of kindness could be imagined. If you had signed your name half way down the type-written page, it would have seemed to me the kindest and most welcome of letters; but the rest was overwhelming. It is not deserved.

My strong desire is that I may be able to continue many years in the service so dear to all our hearts, and in which the Boston friends do so much to make every effort of the missionary as effective as possible.

Sincerely & Gratefully Yours.

James D. Eaton.

Lancaster, Aug. 17, 86.

Rec'd Aug. 23.

Chicago, Sept. 4. 1886.

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark.
Boston. Mass.

My dear Sir:

I have your favor of Aug. 24th kindly expressive of solicitude as to the propriety of so early a return to Mexico. But I did not leave the second time (July 13) until the worst of our season was over, and expected to be back in two months. My physician here, Dr. Brower, has just seen me, and says my improvement has been "remarkable", better pulse, flesh, complexion &c.

We expect to spend Sunday the 12th in Paso del Norte, and be in Chihuahua Tuesday A.M.

Very respectfully Yours.
James D. Eaton.

Chicago, Sept. 4, 1886

Recd Sept. 8.

Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.
Chihuahua, Mexico.
Sept. 24 1886.

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark,
Boston, Mass.

My dear Sir;

This may be too late to find you before the great meeting in Des Moines; but the nine days since my return home have been crowded too full to admit of writing beyond what must be done, as two business letters to Mr. Ward.

We spent two days in Paso del Norte, holding meetings, and administering the Lord's Supper to a little band, baptizing an infant child. Felipe's imprisonment has already been overruled for some visible good. He is now politely received and treated in the same jail, - even by the jailer himself - when he goes to talk with the inmates, although when shut up with them, they used to pluck his beard and revile him. And when we were standing together at a street corner, the village Cura in passing made a polite bow to him. Some of the Chihuahua brethren were visiting in the place, so that we

had a congregation of twenty, including 3 or 4 children. It evidently did them much good to have us both there. One sister presented us with a beautiful white ~~cover~~ cloth for the communion table in this city, hem-stitched, and bordered at each end with very deep thread lace, all the work of her own hands.

We arrived here Wed. A.M. the 15th in time to celebrate Mexican Independence Day, and decorated the Mission Property with lanterns & the national colors. Mr. Crawford left the same night for Sonora to be, at all hazards, ahead of the So. Methodists, although it would have relieved me, weary with the journey & much talking at the border, could he have stayed over last Sunday, as originally arranged by letter.

Miss Ferris says he has criticized the Romanists in every sermon. I noticed he same thing at our Conference, but thought it might not be

his habit. In conversation with Mrs. Crawford I ventured to refer to my own way, saying that for two or three years after coming here I did not once attack publicly the priests or the Roman church. She at once expressed approval, saying it had been their way in Guadalajara. By contrast with Mr. Watkins, undoubtedly they were pacific. But could not you give a word of caution to Mr. C. based on his past experience, without letting him infer that any one here had made any comment? I cannot venture the suggestion; but feel it important that he should have it, at the outset of his new work. He is naturally pugnacious, say others. We are very glad of the opportunity to know Mrs. C. who is a woman of admirable spirit.

On my table is found a circular calling a Committee meeting (in which all the missions in Mexico should be

represented) for Sept. 30, to arrange for a General Assembly of all missionaries in Mexico City in Jan. 1886, or Jan. 1887, as may be judged best by the committee.

We have asked Bible Agent Hamilton to represent us, cordially endorsing this most Christian undertaking, & desiring that the conference be held at the earlier date if practicable; also promising that "at least one of us" would be present. Doubtless the Presbys & Methodists, working nearer the center, will be largely, if not fully, represented. How many shall we send? Half fare tickets for round trip from this city would be about $40 each, Mexican money, besides daily living.

Having gone last year, on Dr. Noble's kindly furnished passes, myself, I feel that Mr. Case should be the one this time. Indeed, after my summer's absence, & the necessary touring I must do the coming winter, I should greatly prefer, from a selfish point

of view, not to go at all, if that will be satisfactory. Yet I foresee obstacles to such an easy-going choice!
Such a Conference is in line with the policy of our Board above all others, as I understand it, and we shall have a chance to declare our principles. If you have at hand any sketch of what has been found practicable in other lands, on this line, I should be very grateful to be permitted to see it.

Mr. & Mrs. Wright are the same that they seemed in July, and are sure to wear well.

This week I have examined ten candidates for admission to the Church to be received three months after they have been approved and their names published, and after they have been under my especial instruction as catechumens. The coming of two, a noble married couple, interrupted this letter on the 1st page, for

an hour and a half. We are on the up grade. But we "rejoice with trembling" not knowing with what "malicious arts" of Satan, or when, we may be taken unawares.

An hour before leaving Chicago, Monday Sept. 6th, at the Ministers' meeting, the National Council topic "yielded up" the floor for twenty minutes, to put in a plea for Mexico; & Mr. Gilbert reports in the "Congt." of the 16th.

Mrs. Eaton is not yet strong as she ought to be. I wanted her to go East for some months with her friends, but she insisted upon accompanying me, under promise not to do house to house work, only having her women's meetings in the chapel & teaching in Mexn S.S. She has been ill in bed without rising, for three days; but feels better; and we think she will gain: will put her bedroom down-stairs in the parlor next week, to save strength.

Faithfully Yours.
James D. Eaton

Chihuahua, Sept. 24
Rec'd Oct. 1, '86.

Chihuahua, Mexico. Jan 22/87

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark,

Boston, Mass.

My dear Sir:

There lie before me your letters of Dec. 15 and 23, the latter so timed as to reach me on the last day of the old year, and bring good cheer and stimulus for the work of the new. Especially would I thank you for the earnest exhortation to press our hearers to instant acceptance of the truth, and to expect the blessing of the Head of the Church. Several recent events have conspired to make me realize more fully how short my time is, and that what the Lord's servant would do, he must do quickly.

Until we heard that you were back in Boston, I had no heart to write of our work; and for the past four weeks I have felt quite driven with work; - no native helper in this city, and so many extras, such

as Treasurer's Report, Colporteur work and Week of Prayer. The other day Mrs. Eaton laughingly remarked to a friend that she had scarcely seen me to speak to me since Christmas! But what a rewarding work it is! It grows upon me more each day; - so deeply interesting, so highly privileged.

In this city, the first of Jan'y, were added to the church eight on confession of faith, representing all ages, from a gentle little girl of nine years to a gray-headed man and wife, of portly dignified presence. This man is the employer, hostile to the gospel, who two or three years ago angrily dismissed the converted shoemaker who refused to continue to work on Sunday. He was a man of evil temper and given to drink. Now his wife says that he is another man entirely, and he finds his greatest pleasure in attending all of the meetings, and studying his Bible and hymn book at home. He

recited from memory one of the longest Scripture selections given at our Christmas S.S. Concert. The "little girl" with her older brother and sister had been kept waiting almost two years. The brother announced to his school mates that he was not going to "play for keeps" any more, because he had been "baptized". That means a great deal in this country of gamblers. Two others were a couple in middle life, who have a large and interesting family. They began to come with us last June, and have cheerfully suffered much persecution for the gospel's sake. The man has been put to study for a part of the time, and is so fervent in spirit, industrious and sensible that he promises to make a valuable worker. Still another was a young man of twenty-five, brother of the shoe-maker, who has known the truth for three years and been a constant hearer, but who would, not, for a long

time surrender certain evil practices, especially the living with a woman who loved him and worked for him gladly, and clung to him when he repeatedly tried to leave her, and yet whom he could not love and would not marry. But it is nearly a year since they finally separated, and on the Sunday before he was baptized, he was married in church to an orphan girl to whom he had been legally united by a magistrate the day before. Five more are on probation for the April communion, and two will be received by letter from Zacatecas.

For the opening of the "mite chests", allow me to refer you to my article in the Jany Herald. Mr. Bissell wants me to put my argument and story into Spanish for the Testigo, in the hope of stimulating some of the native Christians about Guadalajara.

In Paso del Norte, progress is slow but encouraging. Last month I

received five on probation, and shall go again soon, hoping to secure a room in a more central location. The humble helper and his devoted Christian wife are learning to speak & prayer to edification, and are making headway by their faithful upright lives.

In Parral, we were to have organized a church tomorrow; but sickness in the place has led Bro. Case to postpone the great meetings till March.

Beyond "Coosi", near Guerrero, and in the village of San Ysidro principally, there are now reported to be a goodly number of believers, "creyentes", (said to be as many as seventy including men women and children, but mainly adults,) who have been persuaded of the truth by the reading of books distributed by our colporteur in the past, and especially by the personal influence of the relatives of one of our best families, the Oroscos, who are numerous in those parts. They

propose in March to build a plain chapel for themselves, one giving the ground, and others adobes, timber, labor &c.
I have sent Padierna there, and hope to follow him in two months. If the half is true, it is one of the best things that has been granted to us in these four years.

A choice family, received last July to this church (Chihuahua) losing their livelihood for their faith, soon moved to a point distant about 175 miles, perhaps 25 or 30 from Parral. Now they write of six families, thirty persons, meeting with them frequently to hear the Bible read and explained & to learn our hymns, and desiring to know "the way" more perfectly. I shall take Mr. Case (or he me!) with books, to visit them in March. Other items of interest must wait. But have we not occasion to "thank God and take courage"!
God grant you an increase of strength.

Yours Faithfully
James D. Eaton.

Chihuahua Jan. 22.
Rec'd Feb. 29, '87

Chihuahua, Mexico
Jan. 22. 1887

Rev. Dr. E. K. Alden;

My dear Sir:

Perhaps you did not expect me to acknowledge your brief communications of Nov. 3rd & 12th, in behalf of Dr. Clark. The latter enclosed copy of the Committee's appropriations for 1887, for which we are grateful. The new rules are noted, and we shall do our best to conform to them. In this new mission, however, it is impossible to foresee all needs, imperatively demanding attention; and as yet we have no "contingent fund".

Sincerely Yours.
James D. Eaton.

Chihuahua, Jan. 22, '87.

Rec'd Jan. 29.

Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.
Chihuahua, Mexico.

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark, Feb. 25. 1887.

Boston, Mass.

My dear Sir:

Referring to your letter of Jan. 31, – Mrs. Eaton's humorous remark was not occasioned by my absences from home, but from her sight and companionship day and evening during some weeks; the work in the city and in my study requiring my undivided attention. Of course, as progress is made, the demands upon time & strength become greater; so that I seem to be called to do more, instead of less, work than one year ago. The first of December last, with the approval of the Station, Mr. Wright undertook school work, because the custom of the country compels separation of the sexes, and Miss Ferris found great difficulty in properly controlling her mixed school. It seemed also to me that Mr. W. would thus make equally good progress in the language, by being obliged to put into practice the knowledge gained.

On the third day, in the afternoon, [illegible] arranged a meeting of the women, to be carried on by themselves.

He is now arranging to leave most of this work to a young assistant, hoping later to secure the services of a more competent native. But just now Mrs. Wright is taken ill, not dangerously, but to such degree that she will probably have to keep quiet for months to come; and, for some weeks in prospect, the Spanish lessons of her husband have been suspended, that he may devote himself to her. You will remember my writing of her frail appearance last July. Mrs. Eaton has spent much time with her the past two days, but of course she has little strength to spare for this while continuing the woman's meetings.

It does not look very much like our getting away for the hot months; for even before this unexpected illness, we saw many obstacles in the way, and felt disposed to prove the doctors in the wrong if possible by staying on the ground. You remember, we did not leave in the summer of 1885, even

after Mr. Dutton's death; and at that time we had no horse and buggy to give us fresh air.

The great event since my last has been the organization of the little Church "del Divino Salvador" in Paso del Norte, the 16th of this month. Chihuahua was represented by a delegate (who gave the Right Hand) and by its acting pastor, the writer. Mrs. E. practically represented the Montclair, N.J. church, and served as scribe. The El Paso Presby. pastor addressed the new church, through interpreter. Tuesday was devoted to preliminary organization, explanation of the duties & privileges of the members in the proposed church, and prayer for the Divine guidance. A peculiarly impressive and interesting moment to us, was that following the election of three officers, two men and one woman, when they rose to their feet, one after another, and in a few simple well-chosen words, expressed a sense of their unworthiness

but at the same time their desire to be as useful and faithful as possible in the discharge of unaccustomed duties.

Their earnest, pious desire to be used for the honor of the Master and the progress of his Kingdom, so touchingly expressed, should serve for a strong rebuke of the manifest unwillingness of so many at home to accept the Christian responsibilities which their brethren would lay upon them. Four were examined as to their faith and experience in presence of the congregation, and six, converted also in that place received letters of dismission from ... making ten persons tried and true ... equally divided between the sexes, to ... enter the new organization. The next day the formal services were held, between thirty-five and forty persons present, so that in the small room there was scarcely opportunity to kneel down. Both of these meetings were held in the day time, to accommodate some from a distance, ordinary employments being suspended for this important

business of the Lord. As an immediate fruit of the occasion, an ~~aged~~ elderly couple who have been interested for a year, but have been stoutly opposed by their grown sons and daughters, and have not ventured to attend the meetings often, made application to be received at the next communion; and the father, who owns a little property, has rented us a small house at reduced price, for a chapel and helper's residence, to take the place of the former cramped quarters hidden away inside of a large meson. The Southern Meth. native preacher cannot yet gather a congregation there, and positively refuses longer to meet his appointment (once in two or three weeks.) So that their room is given up, after paying $15 monthly for a year; and the Presiding elder himself offered me the use of their pulpit, "altar" and twelve benches each 12 feet long, if I could utilize them, and save his paying $4.00 monthly for storage: adding that they would not not resume preaching

before next November.

That elder, Mr. Scoggins, was here the 1st & 2nd. Sundays of this month (replacing A. H. Sutherland); but even when he administered the communion, not one of our congregation attended. He declined my invitation to preach for us once on the second Sunday, but made a great mistake; for I had to tell my people that we had not failed in courtesy. Miss Ferris attended their chapel the second Sunday, and one of our people was there, and nine other natives. The Raymond excursionists arrived that day, & I met them at the train & secured the attendance of many. We had a grand meeting in the evening, Dr. O. F. Presbrey of Washington D.C. speaking through interpreter. The next day Mr. Scoggins called, spoke apologetically, and volunteered to preach for me on a subsequent visit! - making the tender of church furniture; which we cannot accept. My story of the Sciopticon must wait.

Faithfully Yours.

James D. Eaton

Chihuahua [illegible]

(of Chihuahua) (Northern Mexico Mission)
Mr. Eaton sends the following encouraging letter under date of March 18:–

A New Church Formed.

"During the present month have occurred three events of more than ordinary interest. The first was the organization of the "Church of the Primitive Christians" in Parrál, in the southern part of the State, where Mr. Case has been stationed since the autumn of 1884, and where Miss Keyes has lately opened a school.

The Chihuahua Church was represented by one delegate who made the round trip of four hundred miles at his own expense; and by another who came on horseback from his temporary home in El Valle de Zaragoza, sixty miles distant. The former was chosen moderator of the council which, summoned by letters missive, met on Saturday, the 5th inst. In order to realize as much as possible of the "fellowship of the Churches", the writer with his wife were considered to represent the Church in Montclair, N.J.; and the other missionary family that in Howard, Dakota, where their membership respectively is held. "The public services of recognition on Sunday, the great day of the feast, were not allowed to displace the careful Bible

study which there, as here, occupies the fresh morning hour.

In the afternoon, ten men and ten women rose to their feet and entered into solemn covenant to walk together in mutual love and helpfulness, and for united work and worship, as a Church of Christ; eight of the twenty receiving baptism after a probation of three months. The names of ten more were announced as placed on trial, to be received at the next communion, making practically a Church of thirty members.

"After celebrating the Lord's Supper, a recess was taken till evening to hear the sermon. Following this came a delightful fellowship meeting, at which reports were given of the encouraging progress of the work in various parts of the field. One of the new deacons made an address of welcome which was admirable and would have done credit to almost any similar officer in the United States. This man has made large sacrifices for the truth's sake; but the most fanatical opposition and "boycotting" have not succeeded in destroying

his little business as store-keeper, because of his popular personal qualities which, with the Divine blessing, still win their way. The other office-bearer in his personal appearance reminds one strongly of a worthy deacon of the Mount Vernon Church, Boston. While the number of youth and of women is not so large as in this city, there is a noble body of men who are capable of great usefulness; and bright hopes are entertained of this, the third, Church organized on our field; - all within twelve months".

El Valle de Zaragoza.

"From Parrál Mr. Case and myself journeyed, in the former's buckboard, to the above-named place on the Conchos river, to become acquainted with, and carry instruction and cheer to, a band of believers who have been gathered by the labors, since last September, of one of our families that was constrained by persecution to leave this city in search of employment. We followed the old stage road from Chihuahua city, now abandoned, which has degenerated in many places to a mere trail that in turn occasionally disappears,

or becomes impossible for wheels. It was not strange that we lost our way in the bright moonlight; but we were surprised, on returning, to go astray more seriously in broad daylight. To reach the river we descended a "hill" at least twelve miles in length, and which let us down two thousand feet.

In a village of twelve hundred people, we found a company of fifteen or twenty, seven of them men, - heads of families. Several of these own very respectable houses. The parlor of one of them, much larger than that of the missionary premises, was our place of worship in the evening where, for two hours, the closest attention was given by forty or fifty persons, including many respectable hearers at door and windows, to our explanations regarding the chief points of our faith. During the afternoon previous some three hours were spent in more familiar converse with the brethren who came by twos and threes to meet us in the dwelling of Juan de Dios Loya, wife and daughter, who now find even more difficulty than before in making a living, but who will not leave the little flock so long

as we cannot send them a shepherd. We were so deeply interested in what we found, that Mr. Case arranged to come again, on horseback, in two weeks. "John of God" Loya has been rechristened by his neighbors "John of the Devil"; and the parish priest has just delivered a violent tirade against the Protestants, calling on the faithful to join him in "driving them out of the town", - a discourse "subversive of the public order" as one leading man who heard it, said to me. But we believe that the Good Shepherd will not allow these sheep to be lost, and will add many more to the number, & give them a local "fold." Yet if scattered for a time by persecution, it will be, as elsewhere in Mexico, repeating early Church history in Judea: "Therefore they that were scattered ~~about~~ abroad, went everywhere preaching the word."

Showing a Sciopticon.

Returning to Parral, several days were given to the public presentation of a fine assortment of views by means of my Sciopticon.

The mayor of the city, who has shown friendliness in past years, cordially lent his aid

and secured an invitation to show the views in the elegantly furnished salón of the "Casino", the aristocratic club-house of the city. About one hundred gentlemen and ladies were present.

For the following two evenings the theatre was secured at a low rent; and by order of the mayor, two hundred or more of the school children accepted the offer of free admission. Other two hundred paid a small fee, meeting the extra expenses. According to custom, a band of music was engaged to play for an hour at the doors before the performance began, and the numerous venders of cakes and candies were promptly gathered about to gain a few pennies from the crowd. The principal feature of the exhibition is a series of views illustrative of the life of Christ, giving a fine opportunity for quoting passages of Scripture to a people generally ignorant of the Word.

James D. Eaton.

Chihuahua, Mexico,
March 18. 1887.

March 1857

Passed

Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.
Chihuahua, Mexico.
Mar. 18. 1887

Rev. N. G. Clark D.D.
Boston, Mass.

My dear Sir:

The enclosed letter descriptive of my recent fruitful trip to Parral, is at your service, in whole or in part, for the Herald. I asked Mr. Case to write it; but he urged my doing it, & so you will not receive another account. The Cases were so persistent in begging Mrs. Eaton to come with me, and the station here approved, that she ventured the trip. She organized a women's meeting, to gather for prayer on the same day with the sisters here and in Paso del Norte. I have reason to believe also, that her going was helpful to Miss Keyes personally. Mr. Case thought the work had "received a great forward impulse" by the influence of the whole occasion.

Now comes word from the new band of believers in San Ysidro, expressing a desire to have me come and advise them about the building of their little Chapel

and other matters: so I plan to start next Tuesday with horse and buggy, for that point over 100 miles away, to be gone, say, for two weeks. Mrs. E. thinks she is needed more here. Mrs. Wright is much better, so that Mr. W. can carry considerable responsibility.

But about the coming summer, what shall I do? On the one hand, there is the medical opinion by the physicians north, reinforced by Dr. Paschal here, urging an absence of several months during the hot weather, and advised by the Board for the future. But, per contra, my presence seems imperatively needed here this year. I am not sure that Mr. W. will be capable, physically, of carrying the work in this city alone, even if some things be neglected. The first full summer is likely to be trying to them. Also I do not like the moral effect of leaving them alone, although I suppose them to give their cordial consent to the advised absence. Then there is Bro. Crawford in Sonora whom I wish to encourage in "holding the fort" by my example

Mrs. Eaton says her mind is fully made up to stay here and send me off alone for six weeks. But she tried that in 1884 & fell sick, and I felt miserably alone, & decided not to do so again. Also, we stayed here the summer through in 1885, without suffering known detriment. We have, too, the healthful help of horse and buggy now, to get the fresh air. Our green vegetables are now coming in, & soon fruit will be added, so that we can set a good table; better in some respects, than we could afford at the time (May – July) in Wisconsin.

If Miss Ferris were different, our way would be clearer. You know that I have spoken only words of praise concerning her for the year past; but I am compelled to say that, with all her good qualities, she is not prudent of speech, and was a severe trial in that way to the new missionaries last summer. She is also too free in talking with "Americans"; and we could not consent to leave her so far in charge again.

Now please advise me. Do, if

possible, consent to my trying the plan of staying through, "for this time only."

Even last year I was here till July 13, - through the worst of it - except the little time spent in taking Mrs. E. home.

I dare not stay without asking permission, but wish very much to do so, if allowed. Does the new law interfere with our getting R.R. passes, in case a sudden leaving in mid-summer should seem called for?

We hope to hear that you still have strength to spend in the cause which needs you so much.

Faithfully Yours.
James D. Eaton.

March 1887

Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.
Chihuahua, Mexico.
May 20. 1887

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark,
Boston, Mass.

My dear Sir:

Your favor of Mar. 24 remains unacknowledged, and that of May 11th received this morning, places me still further in your debt. The kind expression of anxiety lest my strength be not equal to the purpose of staying on the field all summer is fully appreciated. But I still think that the experiment is worth trying. My general health is better than it was a year ago, notwithstanding some recent and rather severe strains in touring, causing loss of sleep, in connection with inferior Mexican food. Within two weeks I expect to go into the western part of the state, nearer the Sierras, about Cosihuiriachic and Guerrero, some 2000 feet higher than here, where the temperature is much cooler, there to keep house with wife and boy, in a primitive fashion with

such few articles of furniture as may be transported economically. Dr. Paschal thinks the greater altitude will be unfavorable, but only by going up higher can we better the temperature in this region. If ill effects should appear, I can then retreat & go North. But my hope is to do some work in a neglected region which has yet been somewhat prepared by former visits, keep up my use of the language, be within call of this city if needed, and avoid the considerable expense of a trip in the U.S., - the day of "free passes" having gone by, and even of reduced fares to Kansas City for the present.

Starting Mar. 22, I drove 125 miles to San Isidro (near Guerrero) to meet the little congregation there. Found the season too far advanced to make adobes and get out lumber for building now, because the men were soon to begin planting. But I secured the gift of a centrally located lot, and subscriptions to the

amount of a hundred dollars, and promised to return in May or June to organize the believers into a church. The chief magistrate of the village is one of them, most of the half dozen families attending being related to the staunch Orosco family of our Church here. I am very desirous of carrying through this building project at their own charges, not merely on their own account but for the sake of the moral effect upon other congregations.

April 14 we opened the "mite chests" again, after six months. As there had been time for the novelty to wear off, I dared not look for an advance in amounts contributed. But there was an increase of nearly one-third over last October, and the Mission treasurer received \$45.86 Mexican.

About the 20 th. April I had hoped to report progress, but only by considerable effort fulfilled my promise to Dr. Strong of an article for Young

People's Dept. of Herald.

A week later, very desirous to accomplish certain long-planned visits before the summer heats, I took a native brother for assistant and went by railroad, in third class car, to San Pablo and Santa Rosalia, distant 50 and 100 miles respectively, to show my Sciopticon to the school children and others, and make friends. Letters of introduction from my friend, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, secured for me the hearty coöperation of the mayors; and I showed the views for five nights. In the former place, I persuaded the parish priest to attend and, at the proper time, to rise and give explanations of the pictures of the life of Christ. He came the second night also, and in company with the mayor, insisted upon my accepting the gift of a few dollars to help in defraying expenses.

In Santa Rosalia I secured the attendance of many pupils from the

"College of Our Lady of Guadalupe", a very Roman Catholic school. The Mayor himself belongs to the Conservative party, but he ordered a band of music to play before and during the exhibitions (according to custom) at city expense, and afterward presented me with the following certificate, in Spanish:-

"Official Document No. 207. The Government in my charge (he rules over something like a county, including the city,) highly gratified by the tokens of regard with which you have honored the pupils of both sexes in the schools of this city, by means of the diverting and at the same time instructive exhibitions of the Sciopticon, gives to you most hearty thanks for the pains you have taken to inculcate in the minds of these children the principles of learning and sound morals.

Liberty and the Constitution.

Santa Rosalia, May 3. 1887.

John Ortiz.

By the Mayor,

Augustine Fisher, Secretary."

May 6th. I went to Paso del Norte for my quarterly visit, had several meetings with a larger attendance than ever before in the simple, but neat and convenient new chapel (rented), received the gray-haired owner of the same and his wife to membership, against the will of their seven grown children, and approved a candidate for the next time.

The following week my success with the Sciopticon was repeated, - 300 spectators present the first night in the "Juarez" theatre, and enthusiastic. The following morning the parish priest denounced the "Protestant Show" with the result that even more came out the second night. Such was the success that I stayed for a third exhibition, only getting home on the morning of our wedding anniversary. Among my hearers were the Mayor, Mexican Consul from El Paso, Texas, most of the officers and employees of the custom house, and the editors of local papers, besides the teachers, both

gentlemen and ladies. The place is "very fanatical", because the priest has been there all his life, - since the war of 1846, - and is of respectable character. But the Mayor and many officials are liberals; and my success can but have a decided influence in favor of the gospel.

To answer your inquiry about an additional teacher for our day school; - We are very grateful for your generous offer, but think that when the interests of the Board's work as a whole are considered, we should not be justified in asking for another lady just at present. From one cause and another, the attendance at the school has scarcely increased for some time. Probably I ought not longer to refrain from telling you frankly that Miss Ferris has grave defects as a teacher. She will never, I suppose, learn to use the language correctly, although she was quick enough to "catch on" to many

single words, more or less correctly apprehended.
But this is not the most serious fault. She cannot organize and govern well a school, and is wonderfully lacking in the points of accuracy and order. You know her lack of refinement. I have often wished she might go to school to the Mexicans to learn a quiet, lady-like deportment. She is often accosted by loose men on the street, and now and then receives an offer of marriage from some honest, though simple, believer, - in a way that could never by any possibility happen to Mrs. Wright or Mrs. Eaton in her place.
She wonders at this, but we do not. Indeed, she reports some remarkable experiences in the same line in the U.S.
Then, you have already had a hint as to her imprudence in the use of the tongue, both among the natives and foreigners. Her own smart sayings, repeated to us at table by herself, often startle and pain us, and occasionally seem

to call for a gentle reproof from us, so that she does not go to such lengths in speech with us, as we have reason to believe she does with some others.

It is very painful for me to have to write in this manner. She is the most willing and self-sacrificing person I think I ever knew, and in this respect gives a good example to many of us missionaries. We have felt that this quality, and her sterling worth and real ability, would enable her to surmount in time some of these disadvantages. But I fear it may be a very long time. She grew up almost wholly without discipline, and is sadly lacking in the power of application, accurate attention, and thoroughness of performance.

We have tried to keep her from becoming discouraged, but feel sometimes that it would be best should she conclude to resign the work, as she sometimes hints at doing. Only today she remarked that six

months would decide whether she could continue in the work. Her head gives her some trouble. Should she leave later, I think we might transfer Miss Keyes to this city, who is a much better teacher, and perhaps get along in Parral with native help, until Mr. Case is visited by a lady cousin of the family, whom they have hopes of engaging in the missionary work, after she has perhaps visited the field for a time & studied Spanish, without expense to the Board.

Through some misunderstanding, & the haste perhaps with which it was decided to have Miss F. come to this field, she was greatly surprised on arrival to learn that she was expected to teach a school! And I find on looking back, that Miss Wells said nothing about her qualifications as a teacher.

In good hope, I remain,
Yours most sincerely
James D. Eaton.

P.S. May 21. 1887.

Let me say, further, that personally Mrs. Eaton and myself feel greatly indebted to Miss Ferris for her helpfulness and uniform cheerfulness in the home. She is an excellent nurse in sickness, and has won the hearts of all those who know her best. We have hoped, and almost believed, that while her peculiarities occasion remark from strangers, her sterling worth when known by people in general, would counteract, to a great extent, the unfortunate influence of her manner. Could she learn prudence in speech, she might be very valuable as a visitor in the homes of the people, where her deficiencies as a teacher would not appear.

Another fact or two about Santa Rosalia. I found the principal of the school there a man whose nerves were unstrung by drinking habits carried to great excess. I ventured to talk with the Mayor about it, saying that it seemed wrong to place

such an example before the youth, and that I had understood the man was retained through the influence of his father. The morning I left, the Mayor said to me; "I have decided to remove that teacher this very day, and wish you would ask Prof. Muñoz (the Supt.) to get another one for us." Also I represented to this official that the store keepers generally were willing to sign an agreement to close their places of business, Sundays, after three P.M., if he would order the selling in the market to cease at that hour. He remarked that since his election he had been very busy over certain political questions, but that this matter of Sunday closing would be "the next subject taken up" for his consideration. It was gratifying to have a merchant ask me, a Prot. missionary, to "use my influence with the mayor" in favor of this reform.

As always, Yours.

J. D. E.

Guanajuato, May 20, 1887.
Rec'd May 27.

Guerrero, Chihuahua, Mex,
July 13. 1887.

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark, Secy
Boston, Mass
My dear Sir:

Your kind words of May 28 followed us to this place, where we arrived June 9 in our own conveyance.

"The little company of believers in San Ysidro, one league from here, had been praying that we might be led to pass the vacation with them. As they needed instruction, I decided to take charge myself, postpone a little the organization of the church, and meanwhile release the helper for an important colporteur trip amongst towns in the Sierras. So we go there every Sunday for two services, and on Wednesdays Mrs. Eaton gathers the women and children together for instruction."

"On July 3 we formed the church, of thirteen members, ~~to be~~. Five were unavoidably absent on business, from 55 to 120 miles away; but they

expect to be received before our departure.
The band consists of six men with their wives and one young lady, - all related, by marriage or otherwise, to our choice Orozco family in Chihuahua. All can read and are more than ordinarily intelligent for people in the country. Their outside connections and acquaintances are good, and though the population is scattered, we expect much of this unique plant of a church.

You will remember that they intend to build a little chapel of their own next winter. Now they worship in a private house. San Ysidro is but a farming suburb of this county town of 1500 inhabitants, but it affords us a leverage upon the latter place.

We knew that suitable food was rather scarce here, and Dr. Paschal warned me against the altitude, which is about 8,000 ft.; as we are about on "the divide", our river flowing North, to empty finally in the Gulf of California. But with some

trouble, we get enough to eat plainly, the temperature is refreshingly cool, and the altitude does not affect my heart's action noticeably. We are so happy to have been saved the necessity of being exiled temporarily in the U.S. Here we can keep up our Spanish, save for a little Church without much draft on strength, make friends with leading families in Guerrero, and lend a hand at other points, through the mail, which is carried to and from Chihuahua semi-weekly, two days distant".

Perhaps another season we may stay in Cosihuiriachic nearer home, but it is more important to be here now.

I inclose "Estimates for 1888". Please consider note "(6)" & write me again. The "General Assembly of Missionaries" meets Feb. 1888.

We shall stay here till August 15 or 20.

So dear Prest. Hopkins has gone! I shall never forget his setting forth of the Motive for Missions on Thursday evening at Portland Me. in '82.

Yours Faithfully
(over) James D. Eaton.

P.S. The principal of the boys' school here, intimate with the priest, has just given me an order for 43 different school and miscellaneous books in Spanish, as samples from which to order fully. The city council pays for more than one-half of them.

At her meeting yesterday Mrs. Eaton had for hearers twelve women and two men, besides children.

J.D.E.

Chihuahua
July 13. 1887
Rec'd " 21 "

Guerrero, Chihuahua, Mexico,
August 15, 1887.

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark, Secy,
My dear Sir:
Acknowledging your favor of the 3rd inst. by last mail, I have to report that the experiences of the past month have but confirmed impressions as to the wisdom of our making this experiment. We are to leave on Thursday for home, stopping for three or four days in Cosihuiriachic, in the house of a native brother, to hold meetings and study the situation.

¶ The little church in San Isidro has received a decided impulse from the special efforts of these ten weeks. Yesterday we again celebrated the Lord's Supper, and baptized six new members, three men and three women. One man, solely for this purpose, left his business and came fifty miles; he returns to his wife and little ones tomorrow. The wife was received in Chihuahua city

while in a ~~fas~~ visit there the last Sunday in May, and the "little ones" I hope to baptize when in "Cosi." Of the six, three were spoken of in my last as away from home, and the rest are new, making thus a band of sixteen.

The helper whom I released by taking much of his work, had a very successful colporteur trip into the mountains, selling out all his stock of the Scriptures in two days in a mining town. The Supt. of the mine himself bought three or four Bibles to give away. Sr. Padierna endured many hardships on the rough trail, with scant food, walking nearly every step, & often having to ford torrents against which he braced himself with a stout pole that he brought home as a souvenir. I have secured a fresh stock of books, and send him out again this week, "Deacon" Antonio Orozco, just elected, remaining in charge of meetings.

I have persuaded most of

the leading men of this town of Guerrero (some of them "muy Romanos") to subscribe for El Faro, the handsome illustrated Presbn semi-monthly. The list now stands at twenty-three, with hope of some more today. All but three are entirely outside our Protestant circle, and all consented to pay in advance. I feel that I am leaving behind me a faithful preacher ~~who~~ that will accomplish much in this community during a year to come."

Mrs. Eaton and Howard are very well. My wife sleeps like a child, and eats with an excellent appetite. It is perhaps a little soon to return to the city, but I expect to be able to endure it, and wish to relieve Mr. Wright and also to prepare for Mexican Independence Day and attend to other matters that are pressing.

Mrs. Eaton joins me in sending love and remembrances.

Yours Sincerely

James D. Eaton.

Chihuahua, Aug. 13, 1887,

Rec'd Aug. 23.

Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.
Chihuahua, Mexico.
Sept. 20 1887

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark,
Boston Mass

My dear Sir:

Referring to mine of Aug. 15, we spent a few days, as planned, in Cosihuiriachic on our return, finding the town growing and in great need of work, so that I shall probably make a stay of a week or two there in Oct.

Political complications from the incipient "revolution" of April 1886, still continue, and form a serious obstacle to what might otherwise prove to be a large and early success in evangelical work.

We reached home Aug. 24th. - a little early for the heat, which made us perspire freely, and has caused me to lose some ground. But we could not leave the Wrights longer alone, and the Independence Day, Sept. 16. had to be prepared for. The work has been well attended to in our absence, and the outlook is hopeful; -

less of direct opposition, and more of a readiness to receive us courteously on casually meeting with the people.

After a long and seriously dry time, the rains began the day of our arrival, and continued for twelve days with one exception, consecutively, i.e. in the afternoon and evening, - so that our people called us hijos de bendicion, because we brought the rains with us

Mr. & Mrs. Wright at once took a short trip to El Paso, for a change & to make purchases, Mr. W. also to hold services on this side the river. And Sept. 2. he left for the mountains west, to accompany a botanist & get a month's vacation. He has already preached once in San Ysidro.

Appointments are out for the "Asamblea General de Misiones Evangélicas" in Mexico city Jan. 31 to Feb. 3.; Three sermons, six "essays without discussion", and twelve "with discussion". The three discourses are: "Opening sermon" by Dr. J. Milton Greene (Presb.), "Complete Consecration

of the Minister & his Vocation", by Sr. Loza an able native preacher (Meth.), and "The Christian Family", by myself. You have not yet referred to my inquiry as to no. of delegates, - under date of July 13.

Bro. Juan Howland passed through on the 12 th. inst.; and we postpone our annual meeting one month to suit his plans. He will have the first chance, within my recollection, to represent Missions in Mexico on the platform of an "Am. Board meeting".

We have sad news of the dangerous illness, in Parral, of Mrs. Case's sister, Miss Rice, who in a beautiful spirit of sisterly helpfulness and missionary consecration, came in Feb. last, to stay until Xmas. Her father, Dr. Rice, started from Iowa Sab. evening the 17 th. inst, & may pass here tomorrow. Mr. Eaton and Miss Ferris both went yesterday. A telegram an hour ago reported the patient "low"; but "hope" is not yet lost. Our church here is in prayer. Mrs. C. expects herself soon to be ill, & Mr. C. has been suffering somewhat again.

We can scarcely endure the thought

of Miss Mattie's being taken from her parents' arms, — the light of their home. Yet we are trying to say, "Thy will be done."

In writing to Mr. Ward on the 17th I gave expression to our eager hope, that such a conclusion may be reached at Springfield as shall remove, or greatly lessen, hindrances to the work at home, and put new courage & zeal into the hearts of all on the field, who realize that they are few and sorely need the help of those who have the will to heed the Master's command, without demanding to know "when", because He said: "It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power."

May you be given all needed strength for the great occasion! We shall be praying for you here, and for all the officers and members of the dear old Board.

Faithfully Yours.

James D. Eaton.

Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.
Chihuahua, Mexico.
Sept. 26. 1887

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark,
Boston, Mass,

My dear Sir:— Replying to your favor of the 16th., I would say that while a "medical woman" would doubtless be very useful here, the city is supplied with reasonably competent physicians, who treat the poor free of charge. They have free access to women professionally. Were one of us ordained men a physician, to prescribe in country towns while touring, it would be of immense value.

But regarding the work as a whole, we feel that the lady physicians are much more needed in other fields.

We all feel deeply afflicted in the death, early on the morning of the 21st., of Miss Mattie Rice, before her father could reach her. Bro. Case is in a wretched state of health, and ought to have a change; perhaps Mrs. C. too, when she can travel, — especially for the former's sake.

Yours Faithfully
James D. Eaton.

Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.,
Chihuahua, Mexico,
Sept 26. 1887.

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark,
Boston, Mass.

My dear Sir, Replying to
your favor of the 16th, I would say
that while a "medical mission" would [illegible]

[illegible]

Chihuahua, Sept 26, 1887.
Rec'd Oct 4.

Chihuahua, Mexico,
Nov. 14, 1887.

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark,

My dear Sir:

Your announcement, Sept. 30, of the conditional appointment of Miss Prescott to Parral, was duly received, and now we have your favor of Nov. 7. Mrs. Eaton will answer the questions addressed especially to her, while I respond to others.

We do feel deeply the need of native preachers, but after our experience of two years ago shall be very shy of any that offer from other missions. Since the beginning of this year I have declined applications from several such who have written me. We have nothing yet but three, who might be called local preachers; one in Paso del Norte, one studying here and leading a branch meeting, and one, Sr. Padierna, who is near Guerrero, and labors as colporteur much of the time. It may seem best to lend him to Mr. Crawford

for a while, after our Conference, Dec. 1-4.

Bishop Hurst's article caused us also "a good deal of surprise". It is probably true that about "four-fifths of the population in Mexico are pure-blooded Indians". But nothing like this proportion "have their own languages", I should say. They generally speak the Spanish, and mingle in town and country with the pure-blood Spanish and the "mestizos" (or half breeds.) In this city e.g. we have all shades of color.

"There are in the mountains to the West of us, pueblos of Tarauma-re Indians, peaceable, an agricultural and pastoral people in part, in whom we have been interested for three or four years. They often visit our towns for purposes of trade; carry only bows and arrows. The head man in each village can speak Spanish, I am told; and many more know something of the language. Some of them want schools established, and the government purposes helping them.

Sr. Padierna would like to do this work, but he has not enough education. We hope some day to find a suitable person to carry the gospel to them. The number of these people has been estimated as high as forty thousand; but not all of them probably are within the borders of the State of Chihuahua. We know not of any other Indians here, beyond a few stray Apaches that are occasionally allowed by Uncle Sam to escape across the border to prey upon peaceable Mexicans.

In the States to the South there are probably many more tribes of Indians. In Sonora, also, we find the Yaquis who have my sympathy in resisting the attempt of the government to take the rich lands which they have held for generations along the river that bears their name.

On the second inst. I returned from a three weeks' campaign in Cusihuiriáchic, as proposed in my letter of Sept. 20, though my stay was un-

expectedly prolonged through obstacles encountered at the beginning, such as unfavorable weather and the difficulty of obtaining a suitable room for preaching in that mining town. We have a very few native Christians there, - one of them fortunately, a justice of the peace, who received the gospel in this city, and who does not hesitate to declare his sentiments. He is married, recently, to a very estimable and personally attractive young woman and the two entertained us over Sunday last August, with a refined hospitality that was keenly appreciated. This man has gradually acquired nearly all the Spanish publications of the Tract Society, and has even sold books and distributed tracts to others.

My first care was to show my collection of views, with the Sciopticon, to the school children and leading families, and to others who might choose to pay a small fee. This was done for three nights in the inner court of the hotel, which has a movable roof. And althoug

the rain poured in torrents during two of the exhibitions, the attendance was large and enthusiastic and my receipts at the door over fifty-three dollars, - more than enough to pay for hall, music and handbills. Some days later, on account of interest manifested, the views were shown in a private house, without pay, for three more evenings, - with an encouraging attendance of women and girls. The result was most gratifying in starting public discussion about us, making friends, and softening religious prejudices. All four school teachers attended, some more than once. The mayor came twice. One evening the justice of the peace read the Biblical selections bearing upon my Scriptural "views" and added a few explanations and exhortations of his own.

Meanwhile, I worked at selling books, getting subscriptions for El Faro (the Presbyterian Semi-monthly

illustrated eight page paper,) and social religious meetings. The padre of this place does not exhibit himself on the streets in an intoxicated condition. But he lives openly with his "concubine", close to the church, with several children running about, whose little hands I have taken in mine. He keeps a sharp look out for the dollars due him for marriages, baptisms etc; but preaches almost never. They say he has but little mental capacity for this.

The men of the town almost without exception are wholly indifferent to all religion, or avowed infidels, Drinking and gambling even more prevalent than in this city. Also there exist family feuds, which are a serious obstacle to any general movement, resulting from the little "revolution" which I encountered in April, 1886.

Yet, mainly through the Justice's personal applications under my direction, were secured sixty (60) sub-

[illegible]

scribers to El Faro, including nearly all the officials and business men, - only one of them being an American. It is safe to say that in no other similar town in the republic has such a clean sweep been made. Dr. J. Milton Greene of Mexico writes, Nov. 10th., "Your last letter with list of new subscribers fairly stunned me." Although we have no preacher for "Cosi", this paper will be a most capable evangelist for the coming year.

"On the last Sunday, too, after very special effort in advertising and giving verbal invitations, we had an audience of over sixty men and youth, ~~and~~ besides a few women, to hear a discourse on the proofs drawn from creation and providence for the existence of God, from Romans 1:20. Dozens more of hearers, who could not get inside, stood without at the two doors.

Prayer had continually been ascending from the brethren in Chihuahua in behalf of our work, in a most

fervent spirit, and I was impressed with the feeling that these large results were graciously given according to their faith. We had a meeting for praise and thanksgiving the day after my return; - the two missionary families coming together the evening before to hear what God had wrought."

The lengthened interval since my last must be my excuse for inflicting upon you so long a letter this time.

Pray the Lord of the harvest to send forth the laborers into this harvest.

Yours in the one blessed work,
James D. Eaton.

Mar. 14, 1887

Chihuahua, Mexico, Dec. 10, 1887.

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark,

My dear Sir:

Your favor of Dec. 1. came yesterday, just too late for Messrs. Howland and Case who left in the morning, Bro. Crawford having gone three days before to meet his wife on her return from Cal'a. But your messages are forwarded to them today.

Regarding Sonora, - Mr. C. reported the situation and seemed to be expecting definite instructions from you on his return. It is difficult to decide between such an opening as that at Santa Elena mines, and the desirability of holding a center like that of Hermosillo if climate will permit.

Our conference was all that could be desired and marks a great step in advance. I send account for Dr. Strong, while Bro. Case will report his interesting journey across country with four delegates, doing gospel work by the way.

Hoping to receive yet the ~~fu~~ answer to mine of Nov. 14, I remain

Faithfully yours,

James D. Eaton

Christmas

Dec. 10 89

Chihuahua, Mexico, Dec. 10/87.

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark, Secy.
Boston, Mass

My dear Sir:

The annual "Conference of Congregational Churches in Northern Mexico", held in this city December 1 to 4, was an occasion of unalloyed pleasure and profit to us all. Impossible of realization a year ago, when but one organization existed, it gathered into itself the interests, hopes and prayers of four Churches with over one hundred members, representing all parts of the state and located in typical communities. One of these is the capital city, at the geographical center. Another is Parral, the second in population, devoted to mining interests, and situated about two hundred miles South. The third is Paso del Norte on the Rio G Grande, two hundred and twenty-five miles north, in close contact with the United States. The fourth is San Ysidro, one hundred and twenty-five miles west, and engaged in farming and stock-raising.

In the case of but two of the delegates was any aid given toward the expenses of the journey. One of the brethren from the North left his little business and large family for two weeks and came by rail at his own expense, especially to visit his numerous relatives in this vicinity and tell them of the Savior he has found.

Bro. Crawford, coming through Arizona and New Mexico, brought tidings of encouraging openings in the new field of Sonora; and Mr. & Mrs. Howland, returning to Guadalajara, gave us fresh impressions of Christian life and thought in the home land.

The week-day sessions grouped themselves in three general divisions. Those of the morning were for the missionaries exclusively, who considered such topics as Evangelistic Work, Self Support, Publications Denominational Comity. The afternoons were devoted to Essays and discussions, preceded by a devotional hour; and in the evenings were preached

earnest sermons by the visiting mission-aries. The discussion of "Christianity and Worldly Amusements" was remarkable for the unanimity of conviction expressed by the native brethren that their Christian assemblies each week for Bible study, wor-ship and fraternal conference, furnished all the "recreation" needed. Some of them in past years have had their fill of the diversions of drinking, gambling and dan-cing, but are now very deeply absorbed by distinctly Christian objects of thought and endeavor. A knowledge of the things often admitted by us under the name of "Church Social" would fill them with amazement.

The question of the proper use of the Lord's Day, in a land where the morning is devoted to business, the afternoon to circus shows and bull-fights, and the evening to the theater and opera, was very fully presented and had the immediate effect of leading several persons to pledge themselves to abstain more strictly than before from all buying and selling and all needless labor on that day.

Sunday was the great day of the feast :- in the morning, a large Bible School; in the afternoon, at the center, an English service for the American residents, while at the "bridge" Chapel all the natives gathered to hear a short discourse from a representative of each of our four Churches; and in the evening, following the sermon, a precious sacramental service at which over seventy persons partook of the Supper, including the missionaries and two or three other foreigners, besides as many more attendants and others still about the doors and windows. It was the manifest feeling of all: "This is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!"

Even this was not all. For a few brethren, representing all the Churches, were gathered into classes the following week to receive some instruction in exegesis, homiletics and pastoral theology ;- a mere taste of what they need, and what we hope they and others will have in due time. These full days ended with gospel meetings in which the natives bore their full share, closing with a temperance

rally, ~~at which~~ when impressive testimonies were given by some who once were made wild beasts by drink, but now keep their lips undefiled, and by others who had sold the poison at great profit to themselves but to the ruin of their fellows.

A report of this Conference even in outline, leaves little room for the relating of incidents or the picturing of dramatic situations, as that at the close of the temperance meeting when the broad-shouldered Señor Martinez, who has struggled against the tempter for months past with considerable success, sent word to the leader that he wished to sign the pledge on the spot, and then marched up the aisle from his seat by the door to affix his signature, and turning about called out two men of his acquaintance from the congregation to sign with him as witnesses.

Contrasting all this with what was the case five years ago this month, when a lonely missionary family in a comfortless hotel were strangers to

language and people; and knew not of a single Protestant Christian amongst the Mexicans, we are filled with joy and gratitude, and firmly believe that the Gospel of the Son of God is destined to a wide acceptance by these people who now decorate the exterior of their dwellings in honor of "~~the Virgin~~ Our Lady of Guadalupe", call themselves by her name, build temples for her worship in every important city, and have this year contributed tens of thousands of dollars for the crowning of her image in Mexico City with a golden crown.

James D. Eaton.

Chihuahua – Dec. 10. 87

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Chihuahua, Mex., Dec. 27/87

Rev. N. G. Clark D.D.

My dear Sir:

Your favor of Dec. 17 came yesterday, and we are glad to learn the results of your interview with Mr. Hathaway. The problem presented in Sonora is somewhat difficult of solution, we all felt at the Conference.

My allusion Dec. 10th, was to the long letter of eight pages, written to you Nov. 14th, in answer to your question about Bp. Hurst's "Indians", & detailing my encouraging experiences in Cosihuiriachic during three weeks of labor.

Mrs. Eaton wrote at the same time regarding Misses Ferris & Keyes &c. And we should be pleased to know whether the joint letter reached its destination.

We returned last Wednesday from a week's sojourn in Paso del Norte, (I paying Mrs. E's expenses, because Mrs. Wright has now been on the field almost a year and a half, and I do not like to appear to assume that the

Mission can better afford to send out my wife than Mr. Wright's, to do such work, and it cannot afford to send both.

Three more were baptized (adults), making the membership fifteen; and and at the communion service over fifty persons were present. For three days I worked to get subscribers to El Faro, and secured thirty-eight, all but four outside of "the believers", and all paid in advance. They include the mayor, commandante of custom house, a doctor, merchants &c.

The "General Assembly" in Mexico City, Jan. 31 - Feb. 3. 1888, draws on Bishops of both No. & South. Methodists are expected to be present, besides nine delegates from each denomination, Presbn., Baptist &c. Can you not send one member of Prud. Com. at least? It is just the time of year to come South, & reduced fares are offered. We two Congsts. are going to feel lonely!

As always Yours.

James D. Eaton.

Rec'd Jan. 24/88.

Chihuahua, Mexico, Feb. 15. 1888.

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark,

Boston, Mass

My dear Sir:

Your communications of Jan. 4 and Feb. 2, the latter relating to estimates for 1889, are received. I regret to notice the apparent necessity which exists for calling a halt in the further development of this young mission, so far as the furnishing of ~~of~~ material aid is concerned. But more of this some months later, when estimates are made by us.

Last week I returned from attending the General Assembly of Missions in Mexico City, which was really a noteworthy gathering, and promises to effect practical results beyond what there was reason to hope for in advance of its convening. My account for the Herald is enclosed, which ~~it~~ I trust may find a place amongst the general articles, even if some portions of it may have to be cut out, not that my report is worthy of spe-

ial notice, but that the Assembly itself seems to mark an epoch in Mexican missions.

Both of the Methodist Churches were well represented by visitors from the U.S., three of the M.E. South, Bishop Hargrove & Revs. Lauren and Dr. Morton, having stopped over in this city on their way thither, to lay the corner-stone of a church which Bro. Kilgore is building on a large property purchased last year.

I feel great interest to know what disposition was made of Mr. Watkins. Some of the Methodists &c. showed plainly in their talk with me that they have little use for him. He & wife have ~~ba~~ burned account-books which should have been turned over to Mr. Grimes when they left Guadalajara. Mr. W. made a display of temper one day, in charging that the poor Mexicans of Tlajomulco had been bought by our "accursed money", which was the only unchristian exhibition at the Assembly. Bish and I kept still, and we learned afterward that Mr. W. had only injured himself in the minds of the delegates generally, although his impassioned words were applauded by some Mexican friends of his.

Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.
Chihuahua, Mexico.

It was worth much that the proposals regarding division of the field came from a So. Methodist, - the same substantially being adopted. We think Mr. Sutherland, too, of the Border Mission, showed a fair spirit on this subject.

I took some extra time to visit Puebla 116 miles distant, at my own expense, where I saw the extensive property of the M. E. Ch. North, for theolical & training school especially, on which their Board has spent about $25,000 already, with more to follow I suppose. One of their presiding elders expressed surprise that we had not yet undertaken work in the large cities of the south; and personally I felt somewhat keenly our lack of a representative at the Capital or at some central accessible point.

All well, and hopeful,

Yours Faithfully

James D. Eaton.

Rec'd Feb. 23

Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.
Chihuahua, Mexico.
Mar. 30 1888

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark Secy

My dear Sir:

Your letters of Feb. 21 (to Mrs. Eaton) and 27 were carried by me to Paso del Norte to be answered there; but the pressure of duties did not admit of writing. Arriving on Friday morning Mar. 16th. I learned that the Northern Methodists had recently begun work amongst the Mexicans on the Texas side of the river, under Home Mission auspices, causing the So. Methodists to feel greatly aggrieved; and had made an incursion into our field, taking advantage of an unfriendly feeling on the part of one of our leading members toward the preacher in charge to gain his family for the new enterprise.

Their representative, said to be an Arab, one David Alva, was formerly of the M. E. church South; but lack of funds for his support led him to change to the other church. He speaks English pretty well, is shrewd, and of course much more than a match for our humble preacher.

Rec'd. Feb. 23

The week before our arrival he was assisted in special meetings by an Ex-priest, French Alexandre Marchand, who preached in our chapel on Saturday evening, exposing the Romanists. These two said that re-baptism was not necessary, that the R. C. church is a Christian Church, and invited everybody to the Lord's Supper, (in a private house on the Texas side,) with the result that non-Christian men and little Children (one from our S. School, only seven years old,) communed.

The wife of our helper is a remarkable Christian woman, who naturally has a strong influence in the little church, visiting families, taking part in the prayer-meetings and Bible study.

While calling upon the two in their house, in company with the disaffected family, the ex-priest said that "a church which was governed by women ought to be spit upon", evidently intending to cast reflections upon us. He told our church member, Sr. Atanasio Moya, that he had

a private school in Taos, New Mexico, where he educated youth for the Church at his own expense, as he had large private means, and returned his salary to the M.E. mission. He professed to have conceived a deep affection for the oldest son, Miguel, 16 yrs. of age, (an honest lad, who can barely read and write,) threw his arms about him saying, "This is my son", and offered to take him with himself, support & educate him, & adopt him as his son, and perhaps make him heir to a portion of his estates. On the Monday before my arrival the boy was carried off by Marchand, his youthful imagination dazzled by the prospect. And the parents said to me that they thought their son would be sending for them before long, to live near him, & in greater comfort.

Not to extend further this painful story, I labored to restore Sr. Moya to hearty fellowship with his brethren. But he was jealous of the influence of Antonia, and would evidently

be satisfied with nothing less than the removal of her & her husband, which we should not think of for a moment.

I reluctantly concluded that less harm on the whole would result from granting the letters of dismission he asked for, upon his confession that he had been in the wrong in absenting himself for the past five or six weeks from the church's services to which he belonged. This removes four of our members, two being sons of Mr. & Mrs. Moya and takes off $1.00 a month subscription to the rent of chapel, besides contributions to the weekly collections.

I shall write to Rev. Thos. Harwood, the M.E. Supt. in Socorro, N.M.; but I have little hope of obtaining concessions, because Home Missions in the U.S. are not subject directly to the advice of our Mexican "Asamblea". Yet the So. M.E. pastor in El Paso states that Bp. Hargrove complained to Bp. Bowman of this David Alva, and that the latter promised to remove him.

The state of affairs decided me to

stay over another Sunday, and I held meetings for ten days, more than half of which were attended by Moya. Fortunately Mrs. Eaton was with me, she having gone to have her eyes fitted with new glasses by the Post surgeon at Ft. Bliss, who is an oculist. One evening we opened the "Mite Chests", which produced $23.08 Mexican; two-thirds of it having been given by Felipe & Antonia. The same evening thirteen dollars were subscribed by the native brethren for the purchase of a baby organ, a Spaniard, teaching in El Paso, having offered to give music lessons free, and after June 1st. to play the organ at our Sunday service.

The instrument was purchased at once, some Americans helping, & was played by my wife.

Another evening was held the annual meeting of the Church, with election of officers; and the next night a service of consecration and prayer for a blessing on the work for the coming year.

The next night we had a Temperance

rally, and the owner of the Chapel decided never to make any more wine, but to sell only grapes or raisins from his little vineyard. One candidate of three months standing was baptized, and three more were propounded for the next quarter. On the last Sunday night I spoke on Mexico for three-quarters of an hour to a crowded house in El Paso, in the Baptist place of worship, the Presbyterians, and some from other churches, uniting. Some of the native brethren followed me over the river, and took evident satisfaction in seeing their missionary addressing so many of his countrymen.

We feel that this trial sustained by the little church may be over-ruled or blessed to their good; and that the members may be more united and zealous than before, and show that they have been taught wisdom & prudence by experience.

Just now I feel rather more shy of the Northern Methodists than of the

Southern. Mr. MacDonell of Durango, who is also Presiding Elder, has withdrawn from Paso del Norte, as we occupied it first. And as regards the Treachery in Jalisco, I blame Mr. Watkins alone. The Northern Methodists were preparing to accept what he offered to the world, ~~whether~~ when the So. Methodists, a little too quick for them, stepped in and took possession. But nothing could well be more admirable than Mr. Grimes' conduct in yielding Tlacomulco to us, and meeting the storm of Watkins' wrath.

I scarcely needed to be reminded by you of the way in which our endeavors in this republic have been thwarted; and certainly no reflection was intended to be cast by me upon the Committee when I wrote Feb. 15, as my letter-book shows; "Personally I felt somewhat keenly our lack of a representative at the capital or at some central accessible point."

Your reference, by memory, to my expressions of "regret and mortification", ~~it~~ seems to indicate that the above words were

understood in a sense stronger than was in my mind at the time.

The Asamblea General said nothing regarding the "stipends to be paid employees." The great differences in cost of living at different points would make any arrangement of this difficult. But its decisions concerning the transfer of preachers and members from one denomination to another, only upon presentation of letters of dismission from "the competent ecclesiastical authority" of the former, practically covers the point pretty well, and discourages changes for pecuniary reasons.

Nor was anything said about a union theological or training school for preachers. The Presbyterians, especially Dr. J. M. Greene & H. C. Thomson, cordially offered to educate for us any youth or men we might send to them, & to take care that they be not encouraged to remain with them. While we may have to avail ourself to some extent of their kindness at the first,

my feeling is that education near the national capital, 1000 miles from home, might to some degree unfit our men for contented labors here; and that the larger Presbn body, through the students & native pastors, would attract to itself permanently some of our students.

One of the young men in our congregation here, wants to go to the U.S. to study in a Seminary; but of course he has been told that we cannot send students to the U.S. Yet I could not blame him for thinking that we have not much to offer him in this city, as he has had the idea before of being educated in a government school in Mexico city.

As a temporary arrangement to relieve somewhat the present stress, I welcome heartily your suggestion that we hold a two or three months' term of study for converted men, (who may be made helpful) each year, offering them a suitable house & board meanwhile. We should be glad to plan for

such work next fall & winter, and draw upon the Board for meeting the moderate expense.

As to occupation of territory, under the rules of the Asamblea, - I think we can do just what you had hoped, but now fear that it ~~might~~ may not be possible, to do, viz.; carry on the work by evangelistic tours, visiting the little Churches "once a month or so". The Assembly declined to say how often services should be held, but insisted upon the organization of a congregation (not church) with "cultos periódicos". Suspension of these at any time, for one year, is to be regarded as abandonment of the field.

My letter is already of an almost unreasonable length. But I must speak of still another matter of considerable importance. You have seen what was done by the Asamblea as regards the preparation of an improved Spanish version of the Bible, which is greatly needed.

The special difficulty just now encountered is that of securing the best

Spanish scholarship to aid in the work. Well educated men can be hired in Mexico City, but they would lack the distinctly Evangelical training so important in such an undertaking. Rev. H. B. Pratt is anxious that we should secure the active coöperation of Rev. Carlos Bransby who was educated in Bogotá & in the U.S. & is now living I think in Cal'a. Several years ago Rev. T. F. Wallace of Zacatecas proposed that we employ him as a writer & educator in Chihuahua, the Presb'n Board being unwilling to commission him, I understood, because friends of Mr. Wallace helped to educate Bransby in the U.S. contrary to the wish of the Board. Of course we had no place for such a man, who would not engage in directly evangelistic work in country towns & villages.

I enclose a copy of Mr. Pratt's application to the Presb'n missionaries, which he handed me in Mexico City, and now respectfully suggest to the Prud. Com. that they consider

the advisability of commissioning Mr. Bransby for a limited term of years for this special work, - the Presb. Board having declined to appoint him, on the ground that they are already spending all that can be afforded on their regular work in this country. I was present when the Presbn. estimates for this year were read, and I noticed one item of $3,000.^{00} gold for their press in Mexico city, besides the printer's salary of $900 gold, and the rent of the printing house $250 a month. The latter accommodates, besides the families of the printer & Rev. H. W. Brown, & gives one room each to Dr. Greene & Mr. Thomson. Can not our Board make a comparatively slight contribution toward the preparation of a Christian literature, for which the presses of other societies are doing so much? and in whose benefits we share.

With affectionate regards.

Yours Sincerely

James D. Eaton.

Ans'd March 30. 1888

Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.
Chihuahua, Mexico.
Apr. 13. 1888

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark,
Boston, Mass.
My dear Sir:

Your favor of the 6th. inst. is just received, giving me opportunity for making any further suggestion regarding the employment of Rev. Carlos Bransby to aid in preparing a new Spanish version of the Bible. There is but little more to add. You have the right of it, doubtless, in thinking that to sustain this man would be doing "more than is our proper share," in Mexico. But the knowledge that the Board has done so much in this direction in past years was precisely what emboldened Rev. H. B. Pratt and myself to think that it might be willing to stand in the breach again. If but one Society is to bear the brunt of the burden, that ought to be the Presbyterian. But it has declined; and I am not informed whether several Mission Boards have ever coöperated successfully in supporting one man to do

the work of a Translator.

It is true that our subscribing for about 500 copies of "El Faro" (besides lesson leaves &c., from their press,) gives a moral support to the Presbyterians. But it must always be published at a loss, at the present price, - $1.00, Mexican, for 24 issues, eight pages, illustrated. The same price, for 12 issues annually, as at first, was reasonable. But John W. Butler put out the "Abogado Cristiano" twice as often, with two pages of advertisements, to hold his old subscribers, (especially in the Presby= congregations.) Then Dr. Greene doubled the issues of "El Faro", same size, without advertisements. Large club rates reduce price to 75 ¢!

Dr. Greene told me over two years ago, when doubling the issues, that he thought it wise to spend on this attractive paper what otherwise they would devote to tracts &c. for gratuitous distribution.

My point was that we are

getting large advantage from this work of the press, without the expenditure of one cent of the Board's money in this direction.

It is true that Mr. Bransby would be stationed at Mexico City, away from our missionaries, and would probably give his entire time to the Bible work.

It is to be hoped that your correspondence with Dr. Gilman may result in the adoption of some plan whereby the important work may be undertaken. Especially do we desire, as well as our Brother Gulick in Spain expressed it by letter to the Assembly in Mexico, that there be no needless multiplication of versions; and therefore that co-operation be secured between our own and the British & Foreign Bible Socy which began similar work in Spain some years ago, with a Prof. Palmer who has now perhaps returned to England.

Please observe what is said as to the importance of a new version, by Dr. J. M. Greene in N.Y. "Evangelist" Feb. 23,

and by Dr. S. P. Craver (M.E.) in N.Y. "Independent" of about same date. We in this city are met by amused or puzzled looks and questions, respecting certain clauses and obsolete words on the part of intelligent men who occasionally ~~attempt~~ to read our version. Bro. John Howland has been elected to represent our Churches on the Com. of coöperation; but his time is fully occupied, and what little he may be able to do by way of suggestion must be by mail; while I suppose that Rev. H. C. Thomson, for the Presbns, would devote some hours weekly to the revision, personally attending the sessions.

Our communion service on Sunday the 1st. inst. was a notable occasion. Of the three received to membership, two were first married, (having ~~first~~ previously complied with the civil law,) who had been living together for years unlawfully, as so many Mexicans do; and the ceremony concluded with the singing of a marriage hymn by the four married missionaries. A Roman

Catholic lady, owner of the house my family occupies, attended for the first time, being seated by Mrs. Eaton. The Chapel was crowded, hinting at the necessity of enlargement; and many spectators were at the doors & windows. Including a few Americans, about seventy persons partook of the sacrament.

By Saturday's evening train arrived the irrepressible Dr. Wm D. Powell of Saltillo, Baptist. He is a shrewd, energetic, enthusiastic worker, quick to make friends, - nearer our ideal of a missionary, perhaps, than any we have yet met in this land, if we take his own representations and judge him by a day's acquaintance. But that dreadful close communion question! He wants to arrange to be "in the saddle" all the time, and I can see that he will "push things" everywhere. In this city he was embraced by our Commanding General (Federal) Cervantes, a brother mason, who was once Governor of Coahuila. This man & others

promised to secure a good house, in an eligible location, and make Mr. Powell "solid" with the mayor, governor &c, whenever he should come to establish himself. For Dr. Powell gave us fair warning that in the natural progress of their work, they, the Baptists, would reach our city; as they have already Guadalajara, Aguascalientes & Zacatecas. We reminded him that Chihuahua, with 18000, was small for more than two denominations, But it seemed to have no influence with him.
He said it might be some time yet, and they would give us "a good chance to become well established first".
What may that mean! I can see how he has gained the title of "a great proselyter", which he himself told us he bore, at the same time disclaiming the justice of applying it to him. He left on Monday A.M.; but there was time for hours of conversation, and for his visiting the Methodists and our work at both

preaching places.

I am sorry thus to burden your spirit still more with reports of sectarian movements. But it seemed best to speak of these facts promptly.

We are thankful that in the transfer of some of the correspondence with the Missions recently to Dr. Smith, we ourselves have been left undisturbed in relations with our beloved Senior Secretary; and we earnestly hope, and devoutly pray, that we may be permitted to enjoy the benefit of his sympathetic counsel for many years to come.

Mr. & Mrs. Wright are spending this month with the brethren in El Valle de Zaragoza, to prepare them more fully for undertaking the responsibilities and privileges of churchhood.

Mrs. Eaton joins me in affectionate salutations,

Yours Sincerely
James D. Eaton.

Rec'd April 19

Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.
Chihuahua, Mexico.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D. May 10. 1888

My dear Sir:

Referring to mine to you of 13 April, I observe that my account in the "Herald" of the Asamblea General has been copied into the "Bible Soc'y Record", and the Toronto "Faithful Witness".

On the 15th inst. Mrs. Eaton & I start for San Ysidro, expecting to hold services there & in other towns of the vicinage, encouraging the young church, for six weeks; or until July 1. We suggested to Mr. & Mrs. Wright, on their return from Zaragoza last week, the advisability of their opening another station at Cosihuiriachic, to care for the important towns in the Western part of the state. Since Mr. W. has withdrawn from the day school almost entirely, he has not enough to occupy his time, until the greatly desired training school shall be established: "occupy", that is, to good advantage. Of course people of the congregation drop in to chat with them, and sometimes to make little complaints of their brethren, consuming whole

hours together at times. When in town, I myself usually conduct the Spanish services;—Preaching, S. School, & prayer-meeting. We each preach also in English once a month; but Mr. Kilgore would perhaps take Bro. W's place. I am not only the Treasurer; but also keep the accounts of the two helpers outside the city, and buy most of the Mission books. Mr. W's absence would leave to me the direction of the studies of two or three persons here, upon whom he spends but little time, and the over sight in a general way of the day school. With Mr. W. at "Cosi," my touring would be limited mainly to short trips by rail. And it would not harm the natives here to be left alone for a Sunday occasionally. They are in danger of being spoiled by always having one missionary, and most of the time two. Also, I observe that sometimes, when they cannot obtain some favor from one of us, they make application to the other, without informing the first.

Mrs. Eaton would have no missy lad

to share with her the organ-playing.
But one of her pupils has already begun to help, and more will be taught to do so.

My own health is improving; and our nights are so cool, that I believe I can remain here, with care, during the summer. But if necessary, the Wrights and we could exchange work for a month or so, and occupy each others' houses.

Even if it were not best to occupy "Cosi" more than two or three years, tho' the inability of the Board to send us another man, I am of the opinion that it would pay to work the field as proposed, rather than hold Mr. W. here. But we beg you to give us the man in time.

Mr. W. will probably send you his letter to-day, and I cordially endorse it: trusting the good Lord will give me needed strength to meet the increased demands, and that his Kingdom may be more widely and rapidly extended.

Yours Faithfully
Address me here. } James D. Eaton.

Rec'd May 16.

Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.
Chihuahua, Mexico.
May 12 1888

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D.
Boston, Mass
My dear Sir:

Yesterday, the day after writing you, I received your favor of May 3rd, which does not call for special answer, except in regard to Dr. Powell. He is through and through a Southerner, and is sustained doubtless by Southerners, though I have not at hand a roster of Baptist missionaries.

With thanks for your interested endeavors in behalf of the new Spanish version of the Bible, I am

Sincerely Yours.
James D. Eaton.

P.S.

You may still address me here.

Chihuahua, May 12, 1888,
Recd May 19.

✓

Secretary Clark.

Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.
Chihuahua, Mexico.
May 15 1888

Rev. Dr. E. K. Alden,
Boston, Mass.

My dear Sir:

On the eve of my departure for a sojourn of some weeks in the mountain region to the westward, - caring for the infant church in San Ysidro and carrying the gospel to other towns in that vicinity, - I cannot forbear sending you a line expressive of our appreciation of the gift received some weeks ago, through your instrumentality. As we have been able to snatch intervals of leisure from our work, Mrs. Eaton and I have read together the Life of Dr. C. L. Goodell with profound interest, and have found it very suggestive and spiritually stimulating.

The book has a special interest for me, from my having been examined once at Andover by Dr. Goodell, and my having met him in Boston in 1882, after my first visit to Mexico. He was deeply interested

in the work for this Southwest, and afterwards wrote me regarding the formation of a Church of our order in El Paso. Texas.

We now pass on the book to our associates, Mr. & Mrs. Wright.

Hoping that you are well, and able to serve with your wonted energy and perseverance, I remain

Gratefully Yours.

James D. Eaton.

Chihuahua, May [illegible]
Rec'd May 23

Mission to Northern Mexico.

San Ysidro, June 9. 1888.

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark,

Boston, Mass.

My dear Sir:

We are very grateful for your favor of May 25, giving us encouragement to look for early reinforcement. For even though the Board should, for any reason, hesitate to undertake work for the Indians when the right opportunities present themselves, the calls for labor from these Mexican towns of the Sierra region, are already very urgent and rapidly becoming more so; while their distance west from the city of Chihuahua renders it impossible to care for them from that point as a center, with anything like thoroughness and persistency.

Five days of last week were spent by me in visiting three towns to the Northwest of this place, Santo Tomás, Matachíc and Temosachíc, the last being about forty miles distant, the first only ten miles. The people

Miss M. N. Ennis has made overtures to So. Presbyterians, who ask'd another.

of all three places have the reputation of being very "fanatical"; and the priest resident in the furthest town lately remarked to a friend of ours in Chihuahua that he had "a fine field there yet because it had not been trodden by the Protestants." Nevertheless, members of this little church in San Ysidro have relatives and friends scattered all throug that region, so that, accompanied by one of them, I was lodged for two nights in the house of a sister-in-law who is married to the natural son of a late priest, who was widely influential for many years. Another day, in another town, was passed largely in the house of Sr. Mario Dominguez, a very intelligent & progressive man who is the school-master (~~public~~) of the place. He also is the son of a deceased priest, and has seen a little of the South-western United States. He sheltered my buggy under the porch of the town-house, where his school-room is located, insisted upon unharnessing

ing horse himself, and sent one of his pupils to bring green fodder.

In Matachic, the village president gave us the use of the school-room, (hardly in accordance with the laws, I imagine,) which is a portion of the old rectory adjoining the partly ruined church built years ago by the Jesuits. The massive walls of adobe, three or four feet thick, support huge rafters upon which rests the thick earth roof. It is a capacious room, but gloomy and prison-like; and there, at night, gathered twenty men, besides a few women, to hear the gospel set forth through various Scriptures, ~~but especially from Acts 4:12, "For neither is there any other name under heaven" &c.~~

In Temosachic, we learned of political disagreements and disturbances, the town officers being for the time creatures of the priestly party, so that the president would not touch our printed invitation to the services, nor even promise us the protection guaranteed by the "reform laws", abruptly locking

his office door in the face of my helper. The school-teacher would not listen to what I had to say about text-books, nor ask me to be seated. The one policeman did what he could to draw off my hearers from an impromptu conversational meeting in a corner-store, and to stir up feelings of hatred against us. Yet at night, in the parlor of a respectable house granted us through the influence of a friend in ~~Matachic~~, more than a dozen leading men including the late president and school-teacher, who had been removed through interference of the State government, met together to hear the truth. While the helper and I read and expounded from the bulky volumes of the Roman Catholic Bible (which few of these people have ever seen,) the ex-president and an intelligent merchant followed the pages of our own version, expressing themselves as entirely satisfied as to the substantial agreement of the two.

"On the following morning at

mass, it being Corpus Christi day, these men who had harbored the heretics, were declared excommunicated, and the excitement was intense; but we were well on our way homeward. And from what our host and the ex-president have said to us this week, in Guerrero, we believe the gospel will be heard again soon, and under more favorable auspices, in that very town".

In this village where I write, on Sunday last, we had a delightful service specially for children. Verses were recited & hymns sung by them, and a few flowers had been found in this dry season to deck the room. After a lengthened explanation of the rite, four infant children were presented for baptism, the eight parents standing together before the congregation. About fifty adults were present, crowding the private house, some of them witnessing a simple spiritual, gospel service for the first time. All of the members received last year, with one exception,

have stood firm, in spite of much opposition, and they form a nucleus for a strong church in the future. But there has not been much progress during the year, because they need the cheer and stimulus of occasional visits from a missionary. Still there are eight or nine persons who wish to be received before we leave.

Mr. Wright can come here frequently, as it is but little over fifty miles, by a smooth prairie road, from Cosihuiriachic.

In Guerrero, the county-seat, only a league distant, we have been most warmly welcomed back by those whose acquaintance we ~~h~~ made last year; and only the lack of a suitable preacher hinders our ~~from~~ establishing services there. The twenty-five copies of El Faro have been doing an excellent work during the year, as silent but effective preachers there.

In Santo Tomás, the priest has just been driven from town through fear of violence to his person, he havin

deeply offended some of his hearers, by severe aspersions cast upon them, at mass. Three weeks ago today, the priest of Guerrero, going to confess a dying man in our village, drank so many glasses of liquor by the way, that finally he was scarcely able to keep his seat, and behaved, generally in so outrageous a manner, as to cause great scandal and call forth the remark from by-standers; "The Protestants have the right of it in what they teach!"

Now is the time to put forth telling efforts for the Gospel. Railroads, mining, merchandizing, stock-raising, building, the circulation of thousands of copies of the Scriptures and tens of thousands of tracts, and a little preaching by the few workers, have roused the people to observe and think for themselves. If not won for the Gospel of Christ, they may be expected, as a mass, to sink back into indifferentism and infidelity, as so many individuals have already done, more particularly in the cities. There

is no need of my sketching the discouraging features of a work undertaken under such circumstances.

But if Bro. Wright should not return to Chihuahua, what we should need there would be a *thoroughly* competent instructor for a training-school. We hope to have the candidates for the ministry, by the time that the new man gets a good command of the language. A *married* man would be much more desirable on many accounts; & we know not yet whether that Conn. minister is a good teacher. We (Mrs. E. & I) have thought you might think it best to transfer Bro. Bissell to us. But we must have time to consult with our associates. June 21 to 24. I shall be in "Cosi." to introduce Bro. Wright to my acquaintances & help him find a house; and three days later in Chihuahua, if prospered.

July and August will be *hot*; but I shall stay in the shade as much as possible, & hope not to suffer, even with increased responsibilities. How *can* I take a vacation? Still, these few weeks here have afforded change of work. Mrs. Eaton joins me in affectionate greetings.

yours
James D. Eaton.

[illegible] June 7. 88.
Rec'd June 20.

Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.
Chihuahua, Mexico.
July 28. 1888

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark, Sec'y,

My dear Sir:

For more than a month now, has been in progress my experiment of staying in this city, and the results are satisfactory. A kind Providence has helped us by sending the rains earlier than for some years past; and, although I have lost some flesh, my health is good and I have never been busier.

From Mr. Wright you hear directly, and know that he is on the ground, and meeting an encouraging reception. June 21-22, on our return from work in the Sierra region, I spent with Bro. Wright, (who came from Chihuahua for the purpose,) in Cosihuiriachic, introducing him to my friends and acquaintances, and helping to find a house. Your caution regarding the avoidance of unnecessary expenditure at the outset, was borne in mind in my advising with Bro. Wright, who perhaps thinks I am sometimes a little too reluctant to

have the Board pay the bills. But we have to favor him somewhat, while his salary remains the same, because the cost of living is considerably more in Cosi. than it is here, although certain articles are cheaper. He at first thought he could not pay for his horse himself, (the Board furnishes buggy & harness,) as Mr. Case and I have done; but I encouraged him to do so by allowing a small overdraft on salary %c, which is permitted in such cases, under the rule on page 5 of Regulations; the Wrights having had to lay in some supplies.

The plan formed last year, of building a small chapel in San Ysidro, at native expense, was not carried out for want of leadership. But this summer while there, I got the subscriptions renewed and doubled, and Mr. Wright, only one day distant, can visit frequently, and see the enterprise through.

Your favor of July 2 came

duly to hand. Mr. Crawford feels deeply the need of reinforcement; and possibly it may be best to let an unmarried man work on that coast with him, as Mr. Wright seems to think. I should wish to be reasonably sure, however, that he could endure the climate. The Crawfords suffer much from the heat.

In any event, it will not be long before we ought to have a man here to give all his time to training-school work, - in this city. As Bro. Crawford remarks, we can scarcely expect the students to come, until we have a place for them to come to.

The absence of competent native helpers is a painful lack with us. Some four boys whom we had under our influence nearly five years ago, and upon whom we built hopes, have not met expectations. I cannot detail circumstances; but two are in a government school in Mexico City, one is "clerking" in Guerrero,

and one is in the State college in this city, studying for a profession. We did not feel warranted in giving them pecuniary aid, especially as it would have rendered it very difficult for us to know their real purposes. Yet to the latter two, at least, I ~~have~~ plainly intimated that if they chose to prepare themselves for the ministry, they would find us ready to stand by and help them through, if they manifested a readiness to help themselves. Probably other Missions in this country would have taken these youth into their schools and supported them wholly from the first, & had them about ready to preach now.

Our continual and earnest prayer to God is that He will provide soundly converted young men to be the preachers and teachers to this people. The few middle-aged helpers we have, are good for some things; but their lack of education simply closes the door of approach

to the intelligent & influential classes. By means of "El Faro" and our touring, we missionaries get hold of some leading families; but these, coming to the centers, are surprised to find in the regular congregations so few of their sort, and they lose courage. I remember that "the common people heard Him gladly". But with preachers who could command the respect of thinking men, we should make far greater conquests.

We can do a little meanwhile, in the way you indicated some months ago, by training for a portion of the time these middle-aged men, so that they may do more for their congregations, & for winning more people of their sort. But they cannot give us standing in the community. As a prominent custom house officer, a liberal, who has two girls in our day school, remarked to us last week, he had heard in Mexico city native preach-

ing (Prot.) that was "detestable", while "the priests, however vile in character some of them may be, are at least educated men".

I did not mean to suggest the giving up of Guadalajara. Denominational competition bids fair to abound sufficiently in No. Mexico. Only it occurred to me that if the Bissells should leave La Barca, Mr. B. could fill a niche here. Now that the R.R. is completed to Guadalajara, could you not attend their annual meeting this autumn, and examine the situation? Then we should have you here too! M.E. South Bishop & dignataries are expected in this city in Oct. or Nov. to dedicate their new church, & they will not leave us to ourselves very long at any time.

Estimates for 1889 are enclosed, so far as it is possible to foresee ~~contingencies~~ necessities. Something we hope will be called for in starting a girls' boarding school.

Two pay pupils are expected soon from out of town, and pecuniary aid w'd bring others. Miss Keyes is willing to undertake some additional responsibility in this direction, with native help, utilizing the house vacated by the Wrights. She did not ask for $75 additional outfit at close of her first year. Will the Prud. Com. kindly grant, now, $75.00 gold, to purchase a moderate amount of dining-room & kitchen furniture for her use, (to be the property of the Board,) and, say, $75 Mexican to provide for the reception of a few out-of-town pupils?

Hoping that you are in good health at present, and that Secy Judson Smith's hopes regarding Christian comity on mission fields, as a result of the London Conference, may be richly fulfilled, I remain

Yours Faithfully,

James D. Eaton.

(over)

P.S. I omitted to present Bro. A. B. Case's very reasonable request that the unexpended balance of Miss Prescott's salary, (about the first three months of this year,) be applied to the salary of a promising native woman now under normal training by Miss P. & hoping soon to take a school. I told Bro. Case that it would be necessary for us to ask the Prud. Com. for permission to make this transfer. Perhaps not all of the balance may be needed.

J. D. E.

Ahmednuggur May 2 [illegible]

Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.
Chihuahua, Mexico.
Aug. 7. 1888

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D.

My dear Sir:

Your autograph letter of July 31 is at hand. To the best of my recollection, not a word has passed between Mr. Howland and myself about Spain, or the giving up of Guadalajara, since our Conference in Mar-Apr. 1886; when I imagined that Bro. H. would not have been averse, personally, to receiving an appointment to Spain.

Our climate here is generally stated to be much inferior to that of Guadalajara, on on account of its more frequent changes, and greater extremes of temperature between winter & summer.

Our city is of inferior style & standing, also; and Bro. H. would probably not relish a transfer to this point.

Mrs. Eaton, since writing, has had another long talk with Miss Keyes, who seems really interested in her work for day scholars, but does not yet say whether she will accept our urgent invitation to return to our house.

Yours Sincerely
James D. Eaton.

Aug. 7. 1889

Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.
Chihuahua, Mexico.
Aug. 7th 1888.

Dr. N. G. Clark.

Dear sir;

Your letter of July 30th, received yesterday, was a surprise to us. To that part which relates to Miss Keyes and the boarding-school, I will endeavor to reply. It has always been our hope that at some time, such a school should be started here, as in other parts of Mexico. On my first acquaintance with Miss Keyes, a year ago in March in Parral, I asked her whether, if the way should open to have a boarding-school here, she would feel like undertaking the work. She replied in the affirmative, and further conversation with Mr. & Mrs. Case confirmed my own thought, that she might be better fitted for that, than for general missy. work. When, last September, it seemed necessary to remove her, rather suddenly, to this City, to take charge of our more important school, she told me that Mrs. Case asked her if we were going to open a boarding school then. At intervals through the year, the plan has been referred to in conversation, though nothing definite could be settled upon, as there was no suitable house in which to start, nor any scholars that we

could count upon. At one time I proposed to give up a part of upstairs in this house, to the beginnings of such a school, should it seem necessary, and I wrote her from El Paso in Dec. (I think), in regard to a girl there whom I thought would be a good one for the school.

Until the leaving of Mr. & Mrs. Wright for Cusi, the way did not seem to open: but their going left the mission residence unoccupied, and when in Guerrero we learned of two girls who would like to come to a boarding school, one of them at least, able to pay all expenses, the "leading" seemed clear, and the plan of establishing Miss Keyes at the mission house, to be ready to receive these scholars, very naturally presented itself to us. I wrote her two letters, telling her about these girls, and asking her to please be thinking and planning how best to act. To neither of these letters did she reply. In the second, written after hearing from you, I expressed great regret at knowing of her ill health, and suggested that she take the whole month of July as vacation, in addition to June, if she still felt unable to open the school. On our return, however, late in June, we found that she had

already come back, and in a day or two, we unfolded to her the plan we had conceived for opening the school, leaving her entirely free to express her opinion, to leave the opening of it until the Fall, or to say that she did not feel equal to undertake it at all. It seemed to us, as we told her, that the time had come to decide upon something, since it was not right to leave the mission house empty; that if she did not feel able to go into it, we ought then to rent it, to some who had asked about it.

She made no objection whatever, but accepted two weeks more vacation, in order to get settled in her own home. I gave up all my time for a week to helping her, buying what things were necessary, and trying in every way to make it easy for her. I had long made the matter a subject of prayer; knowing her so well, I felt sure she would shrink from the new responsibilities, and yet I longed to see her take this advance step, feeling just as you have expressed it in your letter, that she would become more truly a missionary through such close contact with the girls, and that having something to draw her more out of herself.

her health would improve.

Now, my dear Dr. Clark, having the facts of the case before you, you can understand that we were somewhat surprised to learn that she had written you, complaining that she had not been consulted in the matter. Undoubtedly, her nervous condition, and her habit of morbidly nursing any fancied grievance, rather than frankly talking it out, accounts for this strange misrepresentation. Miss Keyes is not well: she was not when she came here. She arrived in a wretched condition of health, unable to put on her shoes, on account of swollen feet, (she is very heavy), and while in Parral, the school was closed two or three times, because she did not feel able to teach. Since coming here, she has had, on the whole, better health, and until vacation, had not missed but one day from school, though she is not able to do anything else, besides teaching a class of girls on Sunday.

We all, (that have been associated with her), feel that she might be better, if she would be willing to take proper exercise, and if she would throw herself into the work: "He that loseth his life for my sake shall find it".

It is perhaps, however, too much to expect a

woman of her age to make any radical change in her habits: and it has been abundantly proved in these few weeks, that in the state that she now is in, she is entirely incapable of receiving even one boarding scholar.
We had a talk with her the other day, and made several propositions to her, none of which she either accepted or rejected, so that we are really in the dark as to what she does propose to do.
The question seems now to resolve itself into this: Shall we give up the idea of a boarding-school, receive Miss K. back into our family, and by exercising care, keep her as simply a teacher in the day-school? Or, shall we accept her tentative resignation, only asking her to remain a little while if she feels able, until we can secure some one to take her place?
I do not need to tell you how injurious it is to a school, to change teachers every year or two. Miss Keyes has apparently done good work in the school. She has brought it out of chaos, into order; graded the classes, and impressed neatness and quietness upon the girls. It is already beginning to have the name of the best school in the city, and

some of the families outside the congregation are beginning to patronize it. They do not approve of vacations, are not accustomed to them, and it would cause great dissatisfaction to be obliged to close, even for a short time.

I would add, that our relations with Miss Keyes have always been of the pleasantest. She has seemed to be happy here with us, and personally, I am very fond of her.

We shall wait with interest your reply, and in the mean time, I think I shall use all my influence to induce Miss Keyes to come back to our house. Whichever way the question is settled, that seems to be the best thing to do. If it is decided to make a change, we have a friend in Bound Brook, whom we know well, and whom we believe to be well adapted in every way, to the place. The thought will not come as a surprise to her, as in years past, we have suggested it to her. Obstacles that prevented then, have since been removed.

Her address is, Miss Mary A. Dunning -
Bound Brook,
New Jersey

I trust I have not wearied you with so long a letter.

Respectfully yours,

Gertrude C. Eaton

Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.
Chihuahua, Mexico.
Aug. 7. 1888

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark.

My dear Sir:

Mrs. Eaton having answered your inquiries (under date of July 30.) about Miss Keyes, I need only add in explanation of our request, July 28, for a small grant in aid of her house-keeping; that I did not intimate that the necessary articles had been bought already, so as to leave the Committee entirely untrammeled in their action. Meanwhile I remained personally responsible for the expenditure, and not a dollar has yet been charged on the Mission Treasurer's books. Nothing has yet been spent for the girls' boarding-school proper, beyond putting a door way through an adobe wall, which work could not well be done during Miss Keyes' occupancy of the house.

You understand: Miss K. could not move to the other house during term time, and there was no time to write to Boston and await action before she resumed her work.

Mrs. Eaton has alluded to our offer of another month of vacation to Miss Keyes. You speak of Colorado as a better place for her to recuperate in. She would not have stopped there, having expressed her wish to spend the summer in Connecticut, going at her own charges. For this object, I think she had been saving up her salary very carefully. But we encouraged her to wait another year. (You are aware that one object I have in clinging to the field in summer, against advice of physicians here and at the North, is to make it easier for my associates to remain.)

Before leaving for San Ysidro, I engaged board, at low rates, in one of the best Mexican families in Aldama, 20 miles from here, where much fruit is grown; and where Miss K. would have had a good room, and a fine chance to progress in the language and make friends for the gospel. We know some branches

of the family; and being Roman Catholic, they would hardly be willing to incur the odium of receiving the writer as an inmate. At last Miss Keyes' courage failed her, and she went to El Paso, which is hotter and more expensive.

Respecting your confidential inquiry about Spain &c:- It is very kind of you to ask what may be our "preferences". The question is easily answered. My sympathies have been enlisted largely in behalf of the Mexicans, trying to maintain a republic and enforce good laws, and promote general education,- "our next-door Neighbors". Perhaps I share somewhat in their prejudice against the Spaniards.

17,000,000 of people within a territory less than twice the size of the one state of Chihuahua, (where we may have one-quarter of a million,) looks attractive; and denominational rivalry will probably be less there than it

promises to be here. But to lose all the acquaintanceships formed here, with natives and many missionaries; and to leave a country in which my wife and I seem to be fairly well acclimated, and abandon a work with which we are so closely identified; - the prospect would not be an attractive one. Yet I trust we are willing to obey when the Lord says "Go!" As my letter of July 28 intimates, we should feel weakened, if the State of Jalisco be given up, [without occupying any other populous region to the South of us.

If there be known to you any reason not apparent to us, why we might wisely withdraw from Mexico, and you will frankly state it to us, our way might be clear to go elsewhere.

Before leaving Jalisco, would it not be well to visit by rail the field, as I ventured to suggest July 28th?

Faithfully Yours.

James D. Eaton.

Chihuahua, Aug. 7, '88.
Rec'd Aug. 14.

Chihuahua, Mexico Oct 22/88

Rev. N. G. Clark. D.D.

My dear Sir:

Your kind letter of Oct. 12 is at hand, reporting the grant, by the W.B.M., of $60 in aid of boarding school here, for which we are grateful. Under date of Aug. 6th. you reported the Prud. Com's grant of $75 for Miss Keyes' house-keeping outfit. Your favor of Aug. 14th. speaking of taking counsel with the Woman's Board on this lady's case, added: "It may be well for you to take no action till you hear from me again." This led me to expect further word from you within a short time; and not wishing to have our letters "cross" again, I delayed writing about other matters.

All signs point to Miss Keyes' leaving the field at the close of the school year, about June 1; and we fear she may even feel unable to remain later than March or April when the heat begins to be felt.

It would be very desirable to have her successor on the ground for the last few months of her stay, if only we might learn by that time what is the Providential choice for us.

Regarding the work at this station, — My hope of being able to continue actively engaged through the summer has not been disappointed. I have never been so busy as during the period since June 25, when we returned from San Isidro. Never made more calls. My business correspondence has increased through Mr. Wright's going to Cosi, and I have had to ship books there, and do errands for him in this city. From 8 to 10 a. M. I am at the Mission House, to receive calls, answer demands of the School, and give a lesson to a native helper. There were never so many books sold from our rooms here, in the same length of time, as during the quarter July - Sept. viz. about $225 worth. And I have made trips

to three different out-stations by rail, since my last letter, one each month & four full days each time, - all between Sundays.

My Sunday work is not increased by Mr. Wright's departure, except that his share of the English preaching falls to me. But we spend as little time as possible on the foreigners through the week. Our Mexican congregations have somewhat increased, and we greatly desire a larger blessing this year, - a deepened interest in the ~~truth~~ and willingness to be used by God's Spirit, on the part of the Christians (of which we think we see some signs.) and a consequent conversion of many through the Gospel.

Mr. W's going away was felt in the day-school, of which he had supervision. But even there we have increased our numbers. There are several men & youth now in our congregation who ought to receive more instruction than I

can give them; and I hope we shall not have long to wait for the man who will devote himself almost exclusively to training school work. Mr. Dutton who died, was very patient & ready for that. Mr. Bissell would probably do it well. Mr. Wright likes to make plans, and direct others, and go out on touring work.

In August, he sent around for our approval a letter to you, asking for a lady Teacher for Cosi. But I suggested a modification of some of his positions, or a postponement of the matter until we could consult about it at our annual Conference Dec. 6 to 9.; and he asked to have the letter returned to him. I have put him on the program to present his case to the Mission in Dec.

Mrs. Eaton is the one who has felt the increase of work more than I perhaps. She has to do Mrs. W's share at organ-playing & teaching music. Yet some of her pupils are

beginning to help in this. We go to El Paso tonight, for my quarterly meetings on this side, and to get a week's vacation across the river. We both need to get away from the constant demands upon our sympathies. Natanis will conduct the meetings here.

I wanted to report for you, & perhaps for the Herald, some interesting experiences had on my late tours: but these will have to wait.

Yesterday was a great day for the So. Meth. brethren here, Bishop Duncan coming from So. Carolina and Pres. Elder MacDonell from Durango, to dedicate the new house of worship. Their Board has expended money freely to buy property & build, quite in modern style, a two-story parsonage and this church, far beyond present needs. Meanwhile we furnish them much the greater part of their congregations on these festival days.

Our own quarters are be-

coming somewhat straitened for us; and some of our people have thought the Congregationalists would now do as much as the Methodists have done.

But I am anxious to secure a chapel not built entirely with foreign money. And we have begun to gather a building fund by ourselves, which we hope may grow in two years, to something which will incline our Board to extend the help which may be needed.

We are very thankful for the report of your good health as manifest at Cleveland, and of your sustained activities in the blessed Cause of Missions.

Mrs. Eaton joins me in sending affectionate salutations.

Sincerely Yours.

James D. Eaton.

Rev. Jas. D. Eaton,
Chihuahua, Oct. 22, '88,
Rec'd Oct. 29.

American Board.
Mission to Northern Mexico
Chihuahua, Dec. 17. 1888

Rev. N. G. Clark D.D.
Boston, Mass.,
My dear Sir:-

Your favors of Oct. 29, Nov. 20 and Dec. 4 were all received in due time, - the last just too late to influence our action at the Annual Meeting, as we had adjourned two days before, and the Wrights were getting into their buggy for Cosi.

Still Bro. Crawford showed more of a disposition than heretofore to refer matters to the judgment of the Mission; and we cordially endorsed his application for a lady teacher to start a boarding school, and for aid to purchase land for a chapel, the building to be erected mostly by contributions of foreign residents.

My own judgment would favor the sending of a delegate to look over the ground somewhat in Sonora, as the work and the openings there as yet have been seen only by one pair of eyes. As our next annual meeting will not occur until April 1890, the expenses of the journey could be met from the appropriation for 1889.

Good as was our Conference one year

year ago, the one just held was a marked advance upon it, in interest and fruitfulness, as you may judge by the minutes and report sent you thro' Mr. Case. Four morning sessions of three hours each were scarcely sufficient for the transaction of necessary business; and the public meetings afternoon and evening were largely attended, and well sustained whenever an opportunity was given to the native brethren, through devotional services or discussions of essays.

As you will see by the accompanying program, I succeeded in bringing out two of the more competent of our native helpers or local preachers, for the first time. I had to devote several hours of hard work to each of them, before and after their essays were written; but they were quick to learn and acquited themselves well. Mr. Case responded so painstakingly & satisfactorily to my suggestion of his topic, that we expect to have his essay printed as a tract to meet a pressing need on this field.

Mrs. Eaton is writing you regarding her offer as to the boarding-school.

Our most important action was had in relation to a Theological training school. If we are ever to have a respectable native ministry for our Cong^l churches, such a seminary is indispensable. Already, our most promising candidate for the ministry, who could get a teacher's certificate from the gov^t, if he were a little older (being only eighteen in Sept.,) is asking me to send him to the Presb^n seminary at Mexico City. That would almost certainly result in his being drawn into their work. Yet he cannot be put off for many months with such desultory instruction as could be given him by one missionary who has a congregation to look after, is Mission Treas., oversees a colporteur, and has to spend about one-fourth of his time out of town. We earnestly hope for a favorable response from the Board on this matter. Of course our labor is not lost to the world when its results are harvested by other denominations. Yet I could not feel satisfied to invest my life here, without a reasonable hope of seeing raised up a native ministry

competent to carry on what we have begun.

Our school exhibition at the close of the term, Dec. 10, was very successful, the musical features introduced by Mrs. Eaton, – such as motion song, choruses &c. – being greatly enjoyed by the many Mexicans and Americans present. We secured the influential presence of Dr. F. Paschal who presided, distributed the prizes and made a neat little address at the close.

We plan to concentrate attention upon the education of girls; temporarily suspending our Boys' department, as the attendance is small, and most of them can be reasonably well provided for in the city schools, while a real good teacher for them would cost from $50 to $75 monthly. (it is always 12 months salary to pay, here.)

We voted to send Felipe Hernandez to Atotonilco, an account of whose wonderful opening to us is enclosed for the Herald; while Sr. Padierna went last Wednesday to Paso del Norte, to take his place.

It was my plan to write you of Atotonilco, & other things, before the Conference, but I could not get the time.

With thankful heart,

Yours as ever

James D. Eaton.

J. D. Eaton Chihuahua Dec. 17 [illegible]

American Board.
Mission to Northern Mexico
Chihuahua, Dec. 29. 1888

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D.
Boston, Mass.

My dear Sir:

There is an important supplement to be added to my letter of Dec. 17, with article on "Atotonilco".

For want of space, I did not give the fuller particulars learned by me regarding Sr. Eugenio Durán, the old Indian referred to by Mr. Wright in May Herald, and who is father of the Municipal President. Some time ago I wrote to Gorham, Me., where Mr. D. spent years of his boyhood (1831-8, or '40) & the last mail brings a letter from the Cong'l pastor, Geo. W. Reynolds, who writes amongst other things:- "Your very interesting letter was duly received, and after inquiries in various directions, I have discovered that there are many people here who remember Mr. Durán and would be especially gratified to hear directly from him. Ex-gov. Frederic Robie remembers him. Simon McClellan is living, and bears a scar on one of his fingers which Mr. D. made for him.

while engaged in some mechanical work.
Mr. Josiah McClellan is at this moment
in my study, and is anxious to know
Mr. D's P.O. address so that he may write
him fully all the particulars he may be in-
terested to know". He mentions several
other persons & closes with: "Accept my
thanks for your letter. I will make use
of it at our next meeting. Already it is
town talk".

Mr. Duran has a bright, attractive
granddaughter who was ready to return with
Mrs. Eaton & myself last month to be placed
in our girls' school. But they are poor,
and we had no funds, nor even place
for boarders, since Miss Keyes failed us.
But we have moved this week to the Mission
house; & now I want to interest some in
Gorham who do not give much to missions
to support this little girl and others.

It seems to me now more than
ever desirable that my sketch of the
village should be printed; but the editor
of the Herald may think differently!

Mrs. Eaton joins me in affection-
ate greetings & earnest good wishes.

Faithfully Yours.

James D. Eaton.

Rev. J. D. Eaton.
Chihuahua, Dec. 29, 1888.
Rec'd Jan. 7, 1889.

Chihuahua, Mexico.
Jan. 11. 1889.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D.
Boston, Mass.

My dear Sir:

Your letter of Dec. 29th. came to hand Jan. 9; and we are grateful for the fulness with which you have answered our inquiries and suggestions, as well as for the interest shown by the Woman's Board in the work here.

Regarding the stone sidewalk in front of the Mission premises (that on the residence front was built in 1886.) the estimate of the mason was presented by me to the Conference before the vote was had: but probably the Secretary omitted to report it. It was, "nearly $200 Mexican". After more exact measurements by myself I can give the following figures:- 64 square varas @ $2.50 = $160.00. 36 linear varas of cordón (border) @ 62½ = $22.50 Total $182.50; which, at the average rate of exchange for two months past, viz 1.35, equals $135.19 U.S. cy. There is great activity in all parts of the city in

laying sidewalks, under stimulus of the fine to be imposed March 1 upon those who may not have obeyed the decree. I am happy to report noticeable improvements made in properties adjoining our own, and a late paper reports the formation of a company, with the new Governor at its head, to expend $70,000.00 in building a new theatre one block from us, but on the farther side from the main Plaza. This would increase the value of our property, and make still more evident the centralness of our location.

We hope you may see Miss Dunmi[illegible] about the time that this reaches you, and that plans may be made for her to start soon for Mexico. My time to visit Paso del Norte would be Feb. 1; but in the prospect of seeing her "through the lines" I could postpone the trip till the end of the month. Should the Committee think it best for a delegate to visit Sonora, he ought to go before April, for comfort, or wait till Oct. or Nov. If at the earlier date no time is to be lost.

Miss Keyes is laid aside this week by

rheumatism in the shoulder and bad feelings in her head. As she remains at our former residence, Mrs. Eaton has to spend considerable time and strength on her account, besides going into the day school a half hour daily as an "extra". But the Mexican assistant is faithful, and the family which guards our house, cares much for Miss Keyes. We have put a gentleman lodger into my study there, hoping to get enough money to pay the considerable expenses of moving, which I have not wanted & do not intend, to charge to the Board.

Our former Mexican ass't teacher, Miss Orozco, whom we lent for a time to Mr Crawford, but who could not endure the heat in Sonora, has been teaching school for three months nearly in the vicinity of San Isidro. The brethren of several settlements, viz, San Isidro, Santa Inés & San Pascual are, at my instance, paying over half her salary and providing the room and books, we giving only $10 monthly. Only on this condition did I consent to let her go there. She now reports eighteen

pupils & all going well. I stipulated also that she should be carried to San Isidro to remain from Saturday till Monday, to visit the women and help in meetings, as our helper has been sent to Paso del Norte (now named Ciudad Juarez.)
With the rest of her salary we pay an older pupil to assist here. Without this pecuniary help she was to have been taken out of school this term. But she ought to stay and make a teacher.
Another encouraging thing. The suspension of the boys' dept. of our day school here, (which we thought had hardly been duly appreciated by the parents of the congregation,) created so much dismay that a subscription paper was circulated by the brethren and pledges secured to the amount of fourteen ($14) dollars monthly, with prospect of 4 or 5 dollars more.
I had them appoint a collector and treasurer, so as to save my time and will reopen the dep't next Monday; but in our rented "Bridge Chapel" in the North part of town toward the R.R. station. Our quarters here were too narrow, now that we

open a boarding dept., and social prejudice is very strong against educating the two sexes together. But aside from this, population is increasing in that part of town, some of our families live there, & we hope in this way to attract more. Some day we may have a second church there.

One of our "boarders" is on the ground. Two more will be sent from Parral next week; and more in prospect.

Our "week of prayer" has been full of blessing so far. One gentleman and one lady, of the better families, who have shown interest for weeks past, fully committed themselves for Christ. The latter is a lovely woman, ~~nephew~~ niece of Ex-Governor Louis Terrazas who was in office when we came to live here and had served in that capacity some 17 years at different times. The gentleman is anxious to gain his wife, asked prayers for her on Wednesday night, and is to bring her to our house this afternoon for a social visit. We have never seen her, she being a "fanatical" Romanist, and of course shall say nothing to her about religious at this

first interview.

Trials and discouragements are not lacking, of course, in our work; and in some directions, during the autumn months, they abounded. But we have a great deal to rejoice over at present.

The one South M.E. missionary to whom I have felt attached in some degree for his excellent qualities and brotherly spirit, Rev. Robt. W. MacDonell of Durango, died suddenly last month while 50 miles from home. He was the picture of manly vigor when I saw him the last of Oct. & was to have come again the 20 of this month. He had received appropriations for building, this year, in Durango and in the town where he died. He leaves wife & three children; the youngest two weeks old. Oh! so sad. Mr. Kilgore of this city has gone there this week to settle matters of business.

Mrs. Eaton overworked herself before and during our Conference, & has had to spend about one day each week in bed since. I myself am nervously tired, & as sleep leaves me at four or five o'clk A.M. I put in my time on accounts &c. before breakfast. But after Jan 15. I hope to quiet down and get some rest.

Yours Faithfully,
James D. Eaton.

Rec'd Jan. 18. DK

Chihuahua, Mexico,
Jan. 21. 1889.

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark, Sec'y,

My dear Sir:

On the very date of your last letter, Jan'y 8, Rev. Geo. W. Reynolds, pastor in Gorham, Me, wrote to learn the cost of supporting a pupil here, mentioning a "Judge Waterman" as greatly interested to know, & closed with: "I promise you she shall be provided for." Some half dozen letters have come in my care for Dr. Durán already, — one of them from Mrs. Kate B. Lewis, President of "Maine Miss'y Auxiliary" who was a young daughter or grand-daughter in the family which cared for young Durán.

And on the evening of the day on which arrived the letters from yourself and Mr. Reynolds, I had the satisfaction of meeting at the train the grand-daughter, Zenaida, in company with two girls from Parral, sent to us by Mr. Case. Her father & grand-father are deeply interested in her behalf and fitted her out with clothing & bedding, although they could not raise the money to pay her railroad fare.

The former furnishes, rent-free, a little house in Atotonilco for our helper, worth at least $1.50 monthly; and the latter lends his sala for our meetings there.

The little girl is very bright and winning in manner, & we hope she may be the means of leading the family to Christ.

But I write now especially to ask that, if you have not already done so, you will kindly write to Miss M. E. Keyes in such a way as to give her to understand that you expect another to take her place in this school, announcing at the same time the appointment of Miss Dunning. You will understand that the tidings would come more easily & naturally from you than from us; and we have not yet reported the facts to Miss Keyes. As her health is so poor, & she expects to go home for the coming summer at least, it opens a way out of the difficulty.

And while my pen is in hand, it may be well for me to touch upon another matter. Mr. Wright spent two nights and a day and a half with us last week, for the purpose

of auditing the Mission Treasurer's accts",
& we had some opportunity for conferring
about the work. He had several encour-
aging facts to report, from "Cosi." & other
points; and therefore it surprised us to
have him respond to our sympathetic
words of congratulation: "But it doesn't
amount to much" In San Ysidro
the little Church has already eighty dollars
in the hands of its treasurer toward the
chapel building (which ought to begin in
March next,) and pledges have been made
to meet the rest of the expense. Yet Mr.
Wright was not pleased because "only
twenty-six" persons there came to his
announced services, during a cold
snap when snow had fallen; and
added: "But I can go fifty miles to
meet them". He wished to know
whether Mrs. Eaton and myself would
not be going there again next summer
so as to work up the field still more
and put the chapel through.. But
we did organize the church and get
up the subscription paper; and the
building cannot be commenced in
mid-summer, because they are busy
in the fields, & because of the rains.

We think it very important to hold that point patiently & vigorously; & ~~as soon as possible~~ at once to establish services in the leading town, Guerrero, to which it is tributary, only one league distant. One hundred hands are now at work upon a railroad to Guerrero, from this city under a man who has a contract for the first forty miles. It is expected in time to reach the Pacific coast.

When Mr. W. was living in this city I could but notice evidences of his feeling that his time was too valuable to be spent on two or three pupils. One student however, Gregorio Rodriguez, needed this personal attention which I am giving him since July 1st, in very elementary studies but which Mr. W. could not spare him.

Mr. W. is a better teacher than I am, and is a very valuable man in many ways. Perhaps he might be helped by a suggestion similar to that given to me by yourself in 1882, & which has encouraged my heart many a time since, viz: "This old Board can wait".

With affectionate salutations from Mrs. Eaton & myself

Yours Faithfully
James D. Eaton

P.S. You will remember that our Secretary reported to you, that it was Miss Keyes' own proposition that a new Teacher be sent here in time for her to be engaged in the study of the language for several months before she (Miss K.) would have to leave for the United States.

And, as to Mr. Wright's field, - we think it important to hold and work that Sierra region, even though, for any reason, after further exploration and consideration, it should be deemed by the Board inexpedient to undertake the evangelization of the thousands of Tarahumare Indians.

This, of course, is aside from what may be deemed wise by the Board in regard to any redistribution of forces in connection with the establishment of a theological School.

J.D.E.

Chihuahua —
June 21, 1889

American Board.
Mission to Northern Mexico
Chihuahua, Feb. 22. 1889

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark. Secy.
Boston, Mass.

My dear Sir:-

Since writing to you, under date of Jan. 21, I have been favored with four letters from yourself, dated Jany 16. 19 & 26 & Feb. 6. Bro. Crawford seemed to think that, so long as he had no lot of ground in view, it was hardly worth while for me to visit him. But he promises to keep me informed of prospects, and asks me to take with me my sciopticon and views.

Miss Dunning has been informed by us regarding outfit, packing and shipping; and a trustworthy gentleman in El Paso has promised to meet her and render what assistance he can, in case I am not there.

As to our photographs, - Treas. Ward writes that a sample copy of my own is already in your hands. We will send one of Mrs. Eaton also, taken in El Paso, and will add our boy Howard's as soon as possible.

It will give me pleasure to give to the Gorham, Me. S. School special

information concerning our work.

As reported today to Mr. Ward, our stone sidewalk is built, and has cost a trifle less than the estimate (& appropriation.)

The plan to allow us "the same sum as the present year to cover all expenses, namely $11,128," is designed to guide us in making our estimates for work in 1890, I suppose. Am I correct?

This is the generous scale of expenditure by our Cong^l Faith Mission!

On the eve of my departure from home for outside work, it is impossible for me to report certain interesting facts of recent occurrence which may be recorded some days later. But I must quote from a letter received today from Rev. Dr. J. Milton Greene, of Presb^n Mission in Mexico City.

"At our recent Conference I was appointed, with Bros Beall & Wallace, a committee to confer, at Zacatecas, or some other point agreeable to yourself and such others of your mission as may be able to meet us, some time next month, with reference to a plan for the establishment of a

College. We shall not insist on Mexico as a location, but are rather disposed to favor some point nearer to you, such as San Luis Potosí. If possible, do arrange for such a meeting, and let us prepare something definite and practical which we may present to our constituency. We are all very grateful for your kind response to our proposal, [referring to our vote at Conference in Dec. J.D.E.] and are anxious to coöperate with you to secure the grand object in view. Please write me your views, and any suggestions which may occur. We thought it would be well to invite the other missions, expecting really the cordial response only of the So. Presbyterians."

The time is short to plan for our being represented; and it is difficult to make room for another engagement. But as the time by rail from here to Zacatecas is but 24 hrs., and the expense of round trip would be scarcely more than $25.00 gold, probably Mr. Case or I ought to go. What is your impression? I wish that the Western Mission might be represented.

Faithfully Yours.

James D. Eaton.

Rec'd March 1

American Board.
Mission to Northern Mexico
Chihuahua, Feb. 27. 1889

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark. Secy.
Boston. Mass.

My dear Sir:

Returning from a most interesting trip to Batopilas, I find yours of Feb. 15, & hasten to reply.

Miss Keyes has just told me that she thinks her bedroom suite cost about \$25.00. Her carpet was worth, when new, about the same ~~when new~~, she supposes. The hair mattress cost \$12.00; the two pillows, we know not how much. Miss K. says the bedding (sheets, blankets &c.) were her own property before; but the sheets are nearly worn out. The crockery toilet set was of poor quality, & almost every single piece is broken. We ourselves have lent to her. She says the two or three easy chairs she has, were not bought with Outfit money, but were presents to her. I suppose the first cost of the articles available for Miss Dunning, & for which Miss K. would not expect to be compensated, did not exceed \$75 dollars.

Regarding purchases made last summer for house-keeping; - the table linen and spoons, knives & forks, generally

Chihuahua, Feb. 27-1889
Rec'd March 11

bought here, are not quite good enough for the teacher, and a part is now in use in the boarding-school. Some advantage will accrue thereby to Miss Dunning, it is true; and it might be understood that she is not to have any additional outfit allowance), with a year, as occasionally granted.

Miss Keyes did not. Miss K. will be glad to sell her stove, table, easy chair &c.; and Miss D. ought not to spend all her allowance in the U.S. — understanding of course, that, as in the cases of Misses Wright & Dutton, allowance be made for increased prices here — as the Board would be saved freight & custom duties on such articles procured on the ground.

There is also a carpet, which cost \$19 or \$20, bought for Miss Ferris, which, with that of Miss K., would cover bedrooms & sitting-room, so that Miss D. will need no carpet. This should be included with articles mentioned on the first page.

Hoping this rather rambling account may meet the case, I remain
Yours as always
James D. Eaton.

American Board.
Mission to Northern Mexico
Chihuahua, March 6, 1889

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark.

My dear Sir:

On the eve of my departure for Parral, to assist Bro. Case in organizing a new church in Las Cuevas, I send you for "Letters from the Missions," if thought best, a sketch of a rare occasion in this city. It is my wish to visit San Buenaventura, at no distant date if possible, to confirm these in the faith and receive others. Mrs. Eaton and I went again to Atotonilco immediately after the events recorded, and had an intensely interesting experience which it will be my endeavor to report later.

Over Saturday and Sunday last we were highly favored in having for our guest Rev. H. Grattan Guinness, of London, who brought me a letter from Rev. Dr. Noble, and who asked a multitude of questions about missy work, & expressed himself as greatly interested by what he saw. It was very helpful to be brought in close contact with so earnest and sweet a Christian.

Thanks for your favor of Feb'y 20, in reply to mine of Jan'y 21. * The increase to Mr. Wright's salary was $150, not $250.

As always yours
James D. Eaton.

Rec'd March 16.

American Board.
Mission to Northern Mexico
Chihuahua, Mar. 25. 1889.

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark Sec'y
Boston, Mass

My dear Sir:-

Your letter of inquiry of the 18th. enclosing copy of communication from Miss Keyes, is at hand & I hasten to reply.

The judgment of our Annual Conference in Dec. was unanimously declared to be, that we could not ask the Board for two teachers for the boarding-school in Chihuahua; - at least not before the number of boarders should increase to fifteen or twenty. At present there are only four, besides twenty-six in the day school. The Mission certainly understands that the health of Miss Keyes is not adequate to the demands of the work. Instead of being able to care for other people, she herself needs, or thinks she needs, some one to care for her.

Her school duties are of the lightest description, with a Mexican assistant to take some of the pupils off her hands; and the sessions only profess to be three hours long in the A.M. and two hours in the afternoon.

March 6. 1889

But of the 5×2 = 10 hrs. in the P.M. each w
not less than four are given up
to sewing, when Miss K. ~~almost~~ frequently ~~inv~~
~~riably~~ goes home & leaves the childr
in care of the sewing teacher. For
another hour, the girls are dismiss
to attend Mrs. Eaton's prayer-meetin
& Bible study for the women. So th
Miss K. has scarcely four hours of
work per diem. And yet she ha
occasionally, to leave school, for he
room, at 10.30 or 11 o'clock, on the
plea of feeling ill. She makes n
attempt at missionary work ou
of school hours, so far as we know
although she may pass an entir
Saturday, now and then, in visiti
a certain "American" family.
She teaches a Sunday School cla
on the morning of the Lord's Day, b
rarely attempts to come in the even
either Sunday or Thursday. We hav
felt this failure, (as did Bro. Case n
Parral,) for its influence on the na
but have excused her on the score of
ill-health.

I am sure "the Mission"
would not think it best for her to

return to the field under present circumstances. But I will ask Bro. Case, as Secy, to give you his view also.
Cositmiriachic does not now ask for any teacher: and as to Hermosillo, Miss K. could not possibly endure the climate. Besides, Bro. Crawford wants a boarding school.

We are much surprised at Miss Keyes' Postscript, suggesting May 1st. as the best time for her to leave. June 1st. would be the usual time for vacation to commence, as last year. But we did approve the date of "about the middle of May", as a generous concession. In justice to the school and Miss Imming, I do not see how Miss Keyes can leave before May 15th. And the heat rarely becomes oppressive before that time. Indeed, in 1884 and 1886, when ordered by my physicians to the U.S., to go May 1, – it was not hot enough to tempt me to leave until May 20th, or later.

Besides this, our Spring is very backward this year, so that I am now writing with my overcoat on, in order

to keep comfortable.

Miss Keyes never learned to work much in her youth, and seems to take pride in saying that in her father's house she never had to wait upon herself, but was always waited upon by others. Some amusing accounts could be given you of occurrences here, which substantiate her own statements as to her practical helplessness in many circumstances: but it would be superfluous.

Since the Conference in December, Miss K. has plainly shown that she regrets the decision reluctantly arrived at, to leave the work to another. We are not surprised; for she could hardly find in the United States a position in which to earn her living with so little expenditure of nervous force and of time, — in a good climate, — as she has made in this city.

Yours as always,
James D. Eaton.

Mar 28. 18[illegible]

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American Board.
Mission to Northern Mexico
Chihuahua, Apr 24. 1889

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark.

My dear Sir:

Your favor of the 8th. inst, regarding the question of Miss Keyes' return to this Mission, was duly received. Soon after my writing to you, Mar. 25, she consented to remain here until Friday May 17, in the school; and expects to leave for home on the 20th. But this week she surprised me by a remark that showed that no ~~application~~ arrangements had been made ~~by~~ for her in Boston for reduced rates, and added that "Dr. Clark said Mr. Eaton would furnish her necessary funds for returning home". Aware that she had bought scarcely anything here, had given away almost nothing, had saved in the three years probably about $500 Mex [having handed me, to change for her into U.S. cy. over a year ago, some $250 of hoardings from her trunk.] and had expected to make the round trip to Connecticut this Summer vacation at her own charges, I had not expected her to call upon the Mission Treas. for funds. Yet that is her legal

right, I suppose. [Under the circumstances, I am anxious to secure for her reduced rates to prevent the needless expenditure of benevolent fund. The time is short, but is sufficient I think for the purpose. She would prefer going via Little Rock, Ark. if practicable, In which case her line would be the Mo. Pacific R.R. I suppose to St. Louis. Or you might get her a rate over Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe to Chicago; — both from El Paso. Send to me, please, the permits made out for Miss M. E. Keyes. Or another route may be more practicable. Miss Dunning's brother, Sidney, of Bound Brook, N.J. got for her half-fare permit over Baltimore & Ohio & connections, via N. Orleans, La. & San Antonio, Texas, to El Paso. We might send Miss Keyes that way.

Miss Dunning arrived on Sat. the 13th, began her lessons in Spanish on the following Monday, and is making excellent progress. She is so sympathetic and congenial, so sensible in her judgments, so forward to help in the work, so true a sister

to us all. In greeting the natives, she has a bright smile and winning way, and has just the right words ready to say. We heartily echo the wish of one good sister that Miss D. "may stay here a very long time."

I have written to her father, who was one of my deacons in New Jersey, expressing my appreciation of his gift of such a daughter to the work of the Master here, and promising that we will do all in our power to guard his treasure; and, changing the figure, to promote her health, happiness and success.

Since your statement, in response to our application for $600 Mex. for support of Boarding pupils in 1889, - that the Pred. Com. had voted to allow it, on condition that the Woman's Board wd assume it, we have heard nothing further. Bro. Case and I became personally responsable for the few pupils beginning in January; but we should be glad to know before next term opens, what the Board feels it can do.

Also, a small matter affecting

the Treasury. In my letter of Feb. 22(?) I suggested that we be allowed to expend from the appropriation for Annual Meeting in 1889, (not now to be used in that way,) a sum not exceeding $25 gold, for sending a delegate to the Conference in Zacatecas. Bro. Crawford could not journey so far: Mr. Wright had recently returned from his trip to Guadalajara, and had still later made another to this city to audit Treasurer's accounts, & could not go. Bro. Case could not leave his wife with sick children. Besides meeting my own hotel bills, I spent $31.94 Mex for tickets which, at present rates, equals $23.23 U.S. gold. The Conference could not wait for us, and so I went without securing authorization from Boston. If the Prud. Com. prefer, I will at some later time present the matter to the Mission for their vote.

At the Conference, there was manifested a most cordially fraternal spirit, and with entire unanimity a result was reached, the printed record of which I shall hope shortly

to transmit to you for the considera-
tion of our Board, with some re-
marks by myself. The occasion
was taken advantage of by Bro. Howland
and myself for having an informal
conference upon the matter of a theol.
or training school. We of this
Mission regretted to learn that our
brethren of Western Mexico had not been
able to sign our Memorial upon the
subject, adopted in December last,
and yet had sent it on to Boston
with their own written observations,
instead of returning it to us for
further consideration and modifica-
tion, as we requested them to do in
case they could not sign it.
We desire to coöperate with our
brethren in this matter if it be possi-
ble, and to the fullest practicable
extent.

As it is my hope to be able to
meet Bros. Case and Wright for a
conference on this matter, within
a few days, I defer further remark
for the present. As Mr. Wright brings
his mother-in-law to this city next
week, and Mr. Case would escort

his family to the railroad about the same time, I suggested to them that we try to get together, to consider estimates for 1890, and especially the training school.

Not until after my return from the Zacatecas Conference, Mar. 23d, did I learn that Bro. Crawford had already purchased lots for building, in Hermosillo. I regret to be obliged to say that it is not easy for us to get full information regarding his movements, and that our efforts in that direction seem to be regarded by him sometimes as an unwarranted interference in what does not concern us. He often alludes to the "Chihuahua Mission", or the "No. Mexico Mission", as if he were outside of it. And he almost invariably writes "Sonora Mission," instead of "Station". As Mission Treasurer, I am compelled at times to call his attention to errors; for instance for the last quarter, to an omission of \$200 on the debit side of his accounts, which led him to imagine himself by so much better off than he was, and to ask at once for a further remittance of funds from this office. My endeavor is to touch upon these things in the gentlest manner possi-

ble, in my letters to him. Yet they may have irritated his feelings, in spite of my caution; and I shall avoid, as far as possible, the making of any suggestions to him regarding the work. At our December annual meeting, (to be held next time, in April 1890,) Bros. Wright & Case and myself and the ladies all voted with great unanimity; but considerable time was lost in listening to numerous objections by Bro. Crawford. They were probably a means of grace to us; but we have a plan for next time, in which all are agreed, I think, viz: to elect Bro. Crawford Chairman! He presides very well, and this will save at least one-third of our time, I imagine.

Perhaps I have written with too great frankness. I would not be a fault-finder or tale-bearer; but it seems right that you should understand what are some of the difficulties we encounter in trying to work shoulder to shoulder with Bro. Crawford. He may still be a little sensitive over his transfer from Guadalajara; and we hope for the best.

Mar. 6th. I sent you account of San Buenaventura people coming "150 miles to church".

Faithfully Yours,

(over)

James D. Eaton.

P.S. In passing I ought to mention our series of extra meetings during "Holy Week", [program of sermon topics enclosed,] which were largely attended by our native brethren, besides many outside listeners who would not enter the chapel. Amongst these were some men of the upper class and a number of women. One man who has been a troublesome neighbor to some of our people on account of his fanatical hostility to them, ~~stood~~ in the doorway all one evening and after the sermon, entered and knelt in the aisle during the closing prayer, joining audibly in our petitions.

J. D. E.

American Board.
Mission to Northern Mexico
Chihuahua, May 17. 1889

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark, Sec'y
My dear Sir:-

Your favors of April 12 (which went to Mexico City first) May 3d & 6th are all at hand. Miss Keyes is closing her school today, and expects to leave for home on Monday evening the 20th. inst., availing herself of the reduced rates you have secured. For her own sake I wish she had exerted herself a little to attend some of our religious services besides the Sunday School, during these last weeks. As it is, I fear she will not be greatly missed by the native brethren. It pains us to notice that up to date, no one of them has expressed to us any feeling of regret in view of her departure.

Miss Dunning goes to all the meetings from principle, though strange to the language, saying: "I suppose every one helps". During her first month of study of the language she has missed but one lesson, - from a slight illness, and seems to be making excellent progress. She is strongly attached to her home, and has had some longings

for it, - not expressed howevr in words. She seems to be in good health now and we are trying to arrange for a vacation trip of two weeks to the sierra region, some time next month, calling on the Wrights in Cosi, and showing Miss D. a very different landscape in the Western part of this state. We think this will help her to tide over the first summer nicely, and after her "book larnin'" of the language, she can still make some progress by practicing the Spanish with us on the road.

The perils involved in going too fast, and working too hard, are not lost sight of; but the thought has been to reopen the school July 1st. after a fashion, with Mrs Eaton's help, if both ladies feel strong enough. Neither public nor private schools here have any summer vacation, so that we have felt reluctant to suspend studies for more than six weeks, lest we lose our few pupils from influential families. Through foreign influence, no doubt the summer

vacation will come in good time.

Our special meetings during "Holy Week" were of great interest & profit. On the several evenings, a number of leading men and some women were amongst the attentive hearers in the street outside. On Friday night, a man who has been a troublesome neighbor to one of our people, by reason of his fanatical opposition to us, stood in the door-way all through the sermon, and then entered the chapel, knelt reverently in the aisle, and joined audibly in the closing prayer. (Possibly I have written of this.)

The annual meeting of our church in this city occurred on Thursday the 9th. inst. The roll of names was called, and every member present responded with a verse of Scripture, a word of explanation being given concerning all absentees.

Received during the year, 26: Died, 2: Dismissed to other Churches, 3. "Present no. 71. Cash contributions, over $300.

The election of officers was conducted in a most orderly manner, and much wisdom was shown in the

selections made; all by ballot. We really have quite a satisfactory board of officials, there being better material at command than ever before.

Last evening we had another grand meeting in connection with the semi-annual opening of our "Mite-chests". I had read, just before, Matthew 6:1-4, and the account of "the poor widow who cast in two mites, - more than they all." It so happened that one of the boxes was recognized by me as belonging to an elderly woman, in frail health, a widow, who gains what she can by washing clothes at the river-side, and who has always been remarkable for her faithful attendance and devout spirit. This box contained a larger sum than any of the others, viz., $5.33. So that this poor widow literally "hath cast more in than all they which have cast into the treasury."

The corrected "Circular Letter" concerning the proposed "Union Evangelical College" has not come to hand, so my report must still be deferred.

You have doubtless received

already our appeal to the Board to aid us in establishing a theo- or training school on this field. What you wrote under date of May 3rd encouraged me to think that the way had been opened for the making of such a presentation of the case. To us here the matter seems of pressing importance; and were I to write you in extenso my own views, they would be found to duplicate almost exactly the points presented in our address.

Your suggestion that it might be "best to put a good native at Parral in place of Mr. Case, & bring him to Chihuahua, or to do the same for Cosi & Mr. Wright", would be practicable if we had that "good native". But we know not where to look for him; i.e. for a preacher who could keep things from falling behind at a rapid rate, in the absence of the missionary. We want the school, to aid in raising up that "good native", and several more like him!

We suppose that the chief obstacle,

perhaps almost the only one, to the granting of our petition, is the straitened condition of the Treasury. The reports from that, indeed, are not reassuring. And yet, might it not well be that, in these days of close commercial relations with Mexico, and of increasing knowledge of and interest in, her people through many tourists, writers and artists, a movement to place our Cong^l missions on a broader and more enduring basis, would meet the cordial approval of our affiliated churches, and call forth special donations in this behalf?

It is on similar grounds that we propose to appeal for half a million for the "Union College". Can we not ask with confidence for a small portion of this to give us a Theol. School?, and can we not unite our forces to some extent in this, with the A. H. M. S. & the New West E. Com.

Awaiting the promised "postscript" regarding funds from the Woman's Board for our boarding-school, I am

Sincerely Yours,

James D. Eaton.

Rec'd May 25

American Board.
Mission to Northern Mexico
Chihuahua, May 24. 1889

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark. Sec'y
My dear Sir:-

Your brief letter of the 15th. inst. is at hand, reporting grants for traveling expenses to Zacatecas ($23.23 gold) and $600 for Girls' School in this city; for which we make our grateful acknowledgments.

The R.R. permit for Miss Keyes' use was received in good time; and she started for home on the evening of the 20th., as planned, and apparently in good spirits. She was feeling somewhat indisposed on Sunday, and so did not even meet her Sunday School class of girls on that last occasion. None of them, nor of the day school pupils, went to the R.R. station to bid her goodbye, although the sunset hour, at which the train arrives, is a favorite one here for paseos, and many people go daily to the station for diversion. However, some pupils called on her at her room during the last day or two. Of course we missionaries did all we could to

give her a pleasant send-off; and by verbal directions and letters to parties in El Paso, I did everything in my power to make her passage across the Rio Grande an easy one.
She had considerable money of her own on hand; so that I advanced her only $10.^{13} gold. on traveling acct (I paying her expenses in Mex. cy. to El Paso.) the balance to be refunded her when she renders an account, through this mission, to Mr. Ward.
Your phraseology, "and peaceful I hope too", in referring to "the final arrangements" for Miss Keyes, is somewhat puzzling to us. Our relations with her have never been anything else. We stood by Miss K. and explained her peculiarities, and made excuses for her, when the Cases of Parral found her a trial (kindly borne, however,) until Mrs. C. felt that her sister Gertrude scarcely did her justice, in the endeavor to be generous to the other! Then we had to oppose the Wrights a little. After living with Miss K. that first summer of 1886, they did

not feel inclined to invite her to come to Chihuahua, in Oct. 1887, when Miss Ferris left; and later, in the school year that followed they criticized her methods, - more especially her lack of the missionary spirit. At last we ourselves were forced to the conclusion that she was not adapted to the place, and welcomed her own declaration of physical inability (to which we all gently compelled her at the Annual Conf. in Decr. last) as opening the way easily for a change. Miss K. probably knows pretty nearly what motives should actuate a missionary, and thinks they rule her action. But she was so long accustomed to be served by others, that she can not help thinking first of her own comfort and convenience. She would probably be greatly shocked to think of sacrificing principle to convenience. Yet that is precisely what she seems to do, unconsciously.

Not many days ago, Miss K. remarked to my wife, in the course of an earnest conversation, in the

prospect of her departure, that she had often written to her sister that she had never been so happy in any place outside of her own home, as she had been with us. Also she said, on the same occasion, she believed her going home now was all right, that it had been ordered of the Lord, tho' she was sorry to leave to go. (Mrs. E. says this occurred on Miss H's birthday, Apr. 8.

Yet we feared it might displease Miss Hayes to receive a parting certificate of character, from either the Station or the Mission, since on the very day of her departure she said to me, in reference to a certain matter "if I return here, as I may". Possibly that was said to save her self respect. She has told the "Americans" here that she was only going home for the summer. We suppose that you have dealt so considerately with her in your letters, as to leave her to think that she may be returned.

I wrote you one week ago.

Very Truly Yours.

James D. Eaton.

June [illegible]

[illegible]

American Board.
Mission to Northern Mexico
Chihuahua, June 11. 1889

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark, Secy.
Boston, Mass

My dear Sir:-

Your favor of May 31 is at hand, but makes no reference to the matter of Theol. or Training School. Probably the Prud. Com. has not yet found time for mature deliberation on the subject.

Aside from our natural desire to learn what is likely to be done for us, there is the wish to know, as soon as may be, whether ~~the~~ School is to be, and where, - in order to economize the resources of the Board. If no other missy family is likely to be stationed in this city, perhaps we ought to seek a purchaser for the right of occupancy in the house on the hill, which runs for over four years yet. With the present working force here, all can be accommodated for a time on the Mission premises as they are.

Should the number of boarding-school pupils increase very con-

siderably, we could still meet the enlarged need by erecting another building on this same property.

The legal owner of our property on the hill, has offered to rent a part of it from us but we declined the proposition temporarily, until we should know with some certainty what the movements of missy families were likely to be. Of course it is pleasanter living on the hill, but we feel that the one missionary should be more at the center, if health considerations will permit.

Perhaps we shall not go out of town at all this summer. Mrs Dunning with reason, says she does not need "change", and is reluctant to suspend yet her Spanish lessons.

We hope that an occasional day of rest, or picnic, by the brookside, on the edge of town, may safely tide us over the hot weather.

Please hand the enclosed to Treas. Ward, with report of Miss Keyes' traveling expenses from El Paso.

Yours Sincerely

James D. Eaton.

Rec'd [illegible] 188[illegible] [illegible]

Form No. 1.

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

370

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THOS. T. ECKERT, General Manager. NORVIN GREEN, President.

1/134

NUMBER	SENT BY	REC'D BY	CHECK
1B	Gt	Od	10pd Via Elpaso

Received at 109 State Street, Boston 106 July 20 188

Dated Chihuahua Mex.

To Rev N G. Clark Somerset St
Boston

If Committee Voted on Seminary telegraph result for Saturdays Conference

Rev J D Eaton

Chihuahua, July 28. 1887. J. D. Eaton. Rec'd July 28.

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

NORVIN GREEN, President. THOS. T. ECKERT, General Manager.

34 Ad 10 pd Via El Paso

Received at 109 State Street, Boston July 28 188[7]

Chihuahua Mex

To N. G. Clark Somerset St

Boston

Committee voted on Seminary Telegraph Result for Saturday Observance(?)

Jas D Eaton(?)

American Board.
Mission to Northern Mexico
Chihuahua, July 31, 1889

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark, Secy.
My dear Sir:-

I find that two months have passed since my last writing to you, although your letters of June 12 and 19 were received in due time. Their chief topic, that of a training school for this Mission, has been the topic of our conversations, prayers, letters and, lastly, a conference in this city July 27 to 29; of which you will have received a report ere this, from the Secretary, Mr. Case. A pretty lively correspondence was carried on amongst the four Stations, during the weeks preceding the Conference; and we entertained the hope of securing some definite action from the Prud. Com. regarding the School, previous to our meeting. On Thursday, the 25th. inst., I telegraphed you, at Mr. Wright's request, to learn whether the Com. had voted; and inferred, from the silence, that no result had yet been reached. And as Bro. Wright's questions of June 25th. had not yet been answered, we did not feel at liberty to vote in

favor of any redistribution of the missionary forces, in order to begin such a training school on a small scale. Personally, I regarded your letter of June 12 as tantamount to the giving of permission to the Mission "to arrange for such a school if it was possible", without having "any special grant for it".

But as Mr. Wright's questions had been propounded to the Board, covering exactly this ground, none of us felt at liberty to take any action favoring Bro. W's coming to Chihuahua, or going to C. Juarez, to begin the school.

Our hope now is that, after the summer absences of some members of the Committee, and after the special pressure connected with the Annual Meeting in October, it may be possible to reach a decision, without haste, and with full knowledge of the facts, that shall clearly indicate to us our duty and privilege in the matter.

The time of our Annual Meeting is changed to the early part of April; and it seems altogether possible to have the subject so fully discussed and determined before that date, as

to permit of the making of final arrangements, at that Meeting, for the opening of the School.

With this I send the Estimates of amounts needed for carrying on our work next year, as far as they can be foreseen; not including any special expenditure for the Training School. The "Notes" made by me, are quite full. Only let me add that our endeavor has been to keep within the lines indicated in your favor of Feb. 6. 89, namely "$11,128.00". That, I imagine, was a clerical error; for you wrote, "the same sum as the present year". But the appropriation for 1888, signed in Boston Nov. 11. 87, was $11,128.40; while that for this year was $10,890.80. The latter sum does not include, of course, the grants made later for Girls' Boarding School, increase of Mr. Wright's salary &c. But the low price of silver favors the Treasury, the premium on exchange having ranged, during 12 months past, from 33 to 38 %. We are glad to ask only for $10,854.84 gold, which is a little less than that allowed for 1889, through a too low estimate of the probable worth of exchange on Boston.

The retirement, July 1st, of the paper money which was circulating in the state of Chihuahua, at 8% discount, obliges us now to pay in silver for fuel, most articles of food, wages, and many "notions", at the same prices as before. Competition may right this in part; but our pockets feel the difference. Also, with exchange against us for months past, to the tune of 37%, our salaries do not go far in purchases in American money you can see.

We have stayed by the stuff all summer long, and my own health has suffered a little in consequence. But in spite of the long-continued heat, Mrs. Eaton and Miss Dunning have continued remarkably well. The frequent evening outings with that "pony carriage" (alias horse and buggy) largely explains this happy result with the ladies. As Mexican schools do not have a summer vacation, we could not well extend ours beyond two months and we reopened July 15th, and Mrs. E. spends about two hours daily in the school room, to release Miss D. for study of the language.

Hoping that you may be feeling better than when you last wrote, I remain

Faithfully Yours,

James D. Eaton

Rec'd Aug 6
Ack Oct 21
Dunning

Chihuahua, Mexico, Sept. 27, 1889.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D.

My dear Sir:-

It is good, indeed, to hear from you again, and to know that you have recovered from the long illness. May you have strength renewed, to help us by your valued sympathy and counsel for many more years!

We are grateful for the encouraging tidings concerning the prospects of a training school. I do not think it would be advisable to go so far as Albuquerque (although Mr. Crawford would favor that point rather than Paso del Norte, his first choice being Chihuahua city,) because our Mexicans are already too much inclined to seek their fortunes in the United States, and it would be very difficult to get the young men, educated there, to return to us, unless they were offered larger salaries than we should be willing, probably, to pay them. If the other societies would not unite with us in sustaining a school in Paso del Norte, (or at least in El Paso, Texas,) I should probably favor this central city as the place. I think Bro. Case is of the same opinion, although we all feel the importance of working up P. del Norte, as we at present are not able to do.

In our total lack of efficient native preachers, it would be a serious step backward to leave the Sierra region without a missionary. The work there was never so encouraging as now. But Mr. Wright would like to undertake the school, and I think he is probably better adapted to that sort of work than any other one of our present force. I do not know "how long he would be willing to

stay in it";but he certainly has shown "persistence" in various lines. True,he might become a little restless,if the school were not as speedily and largely successful as was desired. But he may be better able to appreciate now,than at the end of his first year,that it pays to devote patient attention to three or four students,if more do not offer at once, and to carry them along in very elementary studies. One new man,to release Mr.Wright,would meet our needs for some time;whether in coöperation with other societies,or going alone in this city,in a little smaller way.

With present light I can not change,materially,the estimates made in the Spring,and incorporated in our report early in May,through our secretary Mr. Case.It would,however,be more economical,in the long run,to spend,say,$3,000.00 Mexican silver,in putting up a building to accomodate the school,a small dormitory,and Mr.Wright's residence,than to pay $50.00 monthly rent,for all;-i.e.if we build in this city. Elsewhere land would have to be buoght before building. Three candidates for the school,who are in this city,could live with their families.But others from outside,indeed all,would be under better influences,if they could be gathered into a home together.

I must explain that the widowed owner of the"house on the hill"has sold allher property to a man who has built an immense ball-room on the lot adjoining our late residence,and has made other changes since we moved down to the Mission House to receive the boarding pupils,which diminish its value as a residence for us. Atour our informal conference the last of July,in view of the delay in start-

ing the training school, and the possibility of its being located elsewhere, and for the reason just mentioned, it seemed wise to rent the other house, if a chance offered. Last month the new owner offered to rent it for one year, with the privilege of taking it for the entire remaining period of four years and two months, on condition of paying, next August, $700.00 at once. Meantime he pays $300, in monthly installments of $25. This returns to the Mission just what was paid for the house, for the same length of time, viz: $20 per month for fifty months. The interest on this thousand dollars, advanced four years ago, is far less than the amount saved by paying a much lower rent than would have been asked for a house already built. The entire amount would be paid now, were it not that the owner is short of funds through the expendituse of several thousand dollars. If the Board approves, we should like to use the money, when received, in the securing of another healthful residence, or perhaps in the building of a small second story over the premises we are occupying, as a defence against the heats of summer, which, you know, the doctors pronounce to be bad for me.

Regarding Miss Keyes, a little light may be thrown by the fact that in August of last year, four months before the annual meeting which secured the equivalent of a resignation from her, in view of plans for a boarding school; upon a suggestion from Mrs. Eaton that she write to Boston about her work, Miss K. replied with some heat, that she had been badly treated by the Woman's Board, and by Dr. Clark (!)

We are sorry that you have to carry so much on your heart, that does not seem to be a legitimate draft upon your sympathies as Foreign Secretary. I should like to respond with a hearty Amen! to Dr. Barnum's article in the Congregationalist of Sept. 5th.

My record of current events in the field will have to be postponed.

Very truly Yours,

James D. Eaton.

Chihuahua, Mexico, October 3o, 1889.

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark, Sec'y

Boston, Mass.

My dear Sir:- Being beyond the reach of the telegrams which were sent in search of me last week, I was not able to attend the conference held in El Paso between Supt. E. Lyman Hood and two Home Missionaries on the one hand, and our brethren Case and Wright on the other, regarding methods of cooperation by several of our societies, in the establishment of a Training School for Mexicans.

But returning today from San Buenaventura, -of which tour more later-, I have received a full account of what was done there, and here in this city, from Mr. Wright and Mrs. Eaton, and am rejoiced to know of the earnestness of conviction and unanimity of sentiment shown by the assembled workers, and would heartily endorse their suggestions.

It also seems wise to send Mr. Wright with Mr. Hood, to Chicago, for a few days' conference with the brethren there. But unless it can be arranged for the first half, of December, it seems probable that Mr. Wright could not get away from here for a considerable time afterward: so I hope we may receive a favorable answer at once, to our secretary's (Mr. Case) letter which goes probably in the same mail with this, -so as to warrant the proposed journey. Several gentleman offered to help meet Mr. W's travling expenses.

We are deeply pained to learn of your continued ill health.

Faithfully Yours,

James D. Eaton.

Chihuahua, Mexico, NOV. 4, 1889.

Rev Dr. N. G. Clark,

My dear Sir:-

The letter referred to in mine of Oct. 30th. regarding the conference about a training school, has but just come to hand, and is forwarded to you at Mr. Case's request. I have nothing to add to what was said before. The case semms to me to be a remarkably clear one.

But I have a piece of news to communicate, which is surprising enough. At Sunday School yesterday some of the children informed us that Miss M. E. Keyes had joined the mission of the M. E. Church So. and was at Mr. Kilgore's house. We thought there must be some mistake, but later tidings confirmed the report, and there is no doubt she is on the ground. Indeed, Miss Dunning said she was not surprised to hear it, because Miss Keyes talked to her confidentially, before leaving this city in May, of the possibility of her making some arrangement with the Methodists. Also we now remember that in December, during the annual meeting, some ladies of that church came here to buy property and arrange for the building of a large boarding school. Miss Keyes left our sessions to go to the other church and hear the ladies speak, and talk with them. She said with some emphasis that she liked the Methodist way of leaving all business matters in the hands of the ladies, much better than our Board's mode of working. She arrived here three days ago, but has sent us no word. We shall invite her to our house, and be very friendly always. All hands, up there, may repent of their bargain in a year.

Yours Sincerely,

Jas. D. Eaton.

Chihuahua, Oct. 30, '89

Chihuahua, Mexico,

Nov. 7 1889.

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark,

My dear Sir:-

According to promise made in my letter of Oct. 30th, I now send you an account of the organization of the church in San Buenaventura on the 20th. ult., by Mr. Wright and myself, making seven now formed in this State, besides the one in Sonora. Does not this reinforce our plea for a Training School? The Southern Methodists are able to draw from their older work on the Border, and have just appointed an experienced man and attractive preacher, Sr. Domingo Acosta, to take charge of the congregation in this city, leaving Mr. Kilgore freer to visit other points as Presiding Elder. He was once an army officer, and has near relatives living here, and will naturally have much influence. We of course have not a single educated preacher.

Northern Mexico has not appeared much of late in the pages of the Herald, (I confess my own fault,) and my account has been put into convenient form for the press, in case there should be found room for it. If too long, the latter half of the second page, regarding the prehistoric remains, might be omitted.

Trusting that this may find you recovering from the rheumatic attack that has made you a prisoner for some time, and deprived the annual meeting of your always inspiring presence, I remain

Sincerely Yours,

James D. Eaton.

P.S. On the 4th. inst. I forwarded to you, with an alternate address to Dr. Strong, Mr. Case's letter reporting the action had at the Conference in El Paso.

Since writing the above, a letter from Bro. M. A. Crawford, Hermosillo, regarding the employment of an assistant teacher in a day-school, where both Mr. and Mrs. C. hope to do some work, reminds me that this item was

by an oversight, omitted from our estimates for the year 1890. Sonora station had sent in to us various items involved in the engagement of an American lady and the opening of a boarding school, even including the traveling expenses of such a teacher to the field. It seemed to us better not to attempt to estimate such items in advance of permission to seek for the lady, and they were all omitted from our figures in July. But Mr. Crawford feels the great importance of having some sort of a school at once; and I think it is no more than right that he should be allowed a moderate sum for the purpose, -not less than twenty-five dollars a month, (Mexican silver) which will only suffice to pay an assistant. Will you therefore kindly add the sum of three hundred dollars silver to our estimates for next year, making the item of Assistant School Teachers to read: Five Asst. Sch. Teachers, $1080., instead of four at $780.

J. D. E.

3.

EL VALLE DE SAN BUENAVENTURA.

Hereafter our friends there will not have to go "one hundred and fifty miles to church," (see the HERALD for May 1889;) for we have just helped them to organize one of their own. Six new members, added to those who were received in Chihuahua City, complete the apostolic number with which "The Church of Christ in the Valley of Good Fortune" begins its work.

Of these, five are women, one of them being elected secretary. She is a very competent young lady, who has shown a remarkable aptness for learning our Christian hymns, and the others depend largely upon her for the leadership of their meetings. A member of the town council, Sr. Teófilo Romero, was chosen deacon. Although his school education was limited, he has a large fund of general information, and through an industry and frugality rare in Mexico, has acquired some rich farm lands.

The wagons, the wood-pile, the cattle-yard with a little pen for the calves, the vegetable garden, numerous peach and pear trees, the thick grove and running water at the back of the house,-all together were a pleasant reminder of a farmer's surroundings at home.

In this house, a mile from town, are the meetings usually held; although on two Sundays we had services at the center, in a friend's parlor. But in July last, when they met in that place a few times, the brethren were one day saluted with a shower of stones which obliged them to retire. Knowing this, Mr. Wright and I carried with us a strong letter from the governor of the State, addressed to the local president, and so we were able to worship without being harmed; although on the first day a small stone and a ball of mud were thrown through the window, our closing hymn was loudly applauded, and as we drove off in Sr. Romero's wagon, a crowd of men and boys on the street uttered cries of derision.

It is our custom, in visiting out-stations, to address printed invitations, filled out for the occasion, to many heads of families; and in this way we usually

Chihuahua, Nov. 7, 1889.

secure the attendance of a considerable number of persons who are not identified with us. But in this town not one responded to the more than seventy invitations distributed! Some were insultingly torn up in presence of our messenger, and others would not be received from his hands.

When the Sciopticon was offered to the school children, most of them were forbidden by their parents to look at the pictures shown by the Protestantes. The President said it would do no good for him to command the attendance of the pupils, because his order would not be obeyed.

But if the people, under the counsel and threatenings of a very active and fanatical young priest, show themselves inhospitable to new teachings, the beautiful Valley does not belie its attractive name. It is a long, fertile plain, several miles in width, and abundantly watered by an unfailing stream. Maize, beans and tobacco, with some cotton and sugar cane, are the leading crops. East and west are seen the lofty and fantastic outlines of the Sierras, some of the heights being well covered with pine, while oak and black walnut abound in the foot-hills.

Tradition says that in the age before the Conquest, the population of this region was ten-fold what it is now. Nor is it difficult to believe this, when one sees the numerous ruins of the ancient dwellings, called by my guide "Montezumas." The old walls may be distinctly traced, and were not made of sun-dried bricks, as is the Mexican fashion, but were built up by irregular deposits of mud. Their inner surfaces are smoothly finished with a plaster of fine earth, but lime does not appear. Pieces of pottery abound, curiously painted in black, red, brown and grays. Many ornaments, implements and domestic utensils of stone are found, and some are in actual use in the kitchens of our friends. The rooms are smaller than the Mexicans build, and they are not arranged about a patio or court, but opened into one another. There were many of them in a single edifice, which was often more than one story in height. The remains of charred wood indicate that the dwellings were burned, many think by the Spaniards.

It is but a few years since the ferocious Apaches were making frequent salies

lies from those mountain strongholds, stealing cattle and murdering peaceful farmers all through this valley. But now along its entire length may be seen the stakes for a projected line of railroad from Deming, N.M., and doubtless there is "good fortune" in store for the dwellers in this happy valley; -material prosperity and spiritual enlightenment.

Señor Romero has bought a large piece of ground across the street from the parish church, where he hopes ere long to build, at his own charges, a modest chapel for the worship of God in the simplicity of the Gospel faith.

James D. Eaton.

Chihuahua, Mexico, November 7th. 1889.

American Board.
Mission to Northern Mexico
Chihuahua, Dec.4,1889.

Rev.Dr.N.G.Clark,Sec'y

My dear Sir:-

Through your favor of Nov.13th. I was glad to hear that Mr.Case's report of the Conference in El Paso had "been passed over to a sub-committee to consider", the day before; and that you were hoping the general plan outlined would be adopted. It is very important that we should know as soon as may be, of the decision arrived at by the full Committee. We are trying to avoid making arrangements that may have to be unmade when that decision is announced; and meantime feel ourselves hampered in various directions.

I supposed that the other Societies interested in the proposed union, will wait for the Board to make the first proposals.

If Mr.Bissell should be transferred to our Mission, as suggested, it would not then be certain who ought to take charge of the Training School; for Mr.B. is perhaps better adapted to teaching than he is to evangelistic work. "El Testigo" (which ought not to be discontinued) would have to be removed to this city, if Mr.Howland were left alone; and matters would be considerably complicated.

Knowing how unfavorably our brethren of the Western Mission were affected by a tentative suggestion, made last winter, that Mr.Bissell come to our aid, we are not prepared to reccommend such a transfer at present.

If the Board will authorize the expenditure, I think we can find the right sort of man to reinforce us, --which does not mean that any particular one is in mind.

Very cheering was it to receive, Nov.18th, from Haverhill, Mass., a proposition to give one thousand dollars as a <u>starter</u> for a mission to the cave-dwelling Indians in thi State, if the idea were practicable. We must keep Mr.Wright in Cusihuiriachic, or send an efficient man in his place, to maintain our hold there,

and branch out into the Indian work which we had in view when he was sent there.

Other denominations are pushing work in this land so near our own; and we must bestir ourselves, if we propose to bear a worthy part, and not to retire from the field.

My letter of Nov. 7th, reporting a new church formed, and asking to have a certain item added to our estimates for 1890, must have reached you just after your writing.

Hoping you find your strength renewed after the ~~seavoyge~~ "sea-voyage to Baltimore and back," I remain,

Sincerely Yours,

James D. Eaton.

Eaton, Mrs. Gertrude C.

Lancaster, Wisconsin,
Sept. 14th, 1883.

E. K. Alden D.D. Secy.

Dear Sir;

Since our arrival here, on Friday last, my husband's strength, which has long been over taxed, has failed very rapidly, and he is now suffering from such great debility, that it is clearly impossible that we should return on Monday, to Chihuahua, as he had planned to do. He is under the constant care of an excellent physician, and we hope that he will escape the course of low fever with which he is threatened.

The Dr. feels that had he remained longer in Mexico, the result would have been inevitable, of a low, possibly typhoid, fever.

My husband dislikes to add even a feather's weight to your cares, so heavy at this time; but, in consideration of the fact that in coming, we paid two full fares, ~~$~~ $78.00, from El Paso to Kansas City, he wishes

you would be so kind as to write to Pres. Strong, of the A. T. & S. Fé R.R., for passes for two, on our return, which we earnestly hope may not be too long deferred. It is our comfort to feel, that the work is the Lord's, and therefore can not fail, though it may seem to suffer a temporary check, through our disability.

In the hope of brighter days,

Mrs. J. D. Eaton.

W. Strong

Lancaster, Sep. 14, 1883.
Rec'd Sep. 17.

Lancaster, Wisconsin,
Sept. 18th, 1883.

Rev. E. K. Alden. D. D.

Dear Sir;

The letter which I sent you from here, under date of Sept. 14th, may seem to require a word of explanation, as the "pass" he asked for, was received this morning, by way of Topeka, Kansas.

The people of Chihuahua receive their passes very largely, from Topeka, and on advice of one of the physicians of the R. R., Mr. Eaton made application to Topeka, two weeks ago. Receiving no reply, within reasonable limits, however, he was led to believe that it was not coming, and on this account, made application through you, to Pres. Strong of Boston. I should have made this statement in the previous letter, and that it was not done, is only another proof of Mr. Eaton's ill health, which makes close thinking and sound judgment, almost impossible.

Please pardon the oversight.

the pass, received this morning, was made out in Boston, Mr. Eaton's application having evidently been sent to Boston, where the pass was granted, Sept. 10th.

Please convey to Dr.s Clark and Strong, our grateful thanks for the letters of sympathy received from them. That of Dr. Clark especially, was so kind, so sympathetic & reassuring, that I am sure it will help my husband to complete recovery, better than medicine. I am happy to say that he is gaining, though very slowly. He is still exceedingly weak, and sees no one, yet.

Very cordially yours,

Mrs. J. D. Eaton.

Dr Clark

[illegible], Sept 13, 1880
Rec'd Sept 21

Ans. Sept 21.

Lancaster, Wisconsin.
Sept. 25 - 1883.

Rev. N. G. Clark D.D.,

Dear Sir,

Your letter of Sept. 19, was received here on Saturday, the 22nd.

We note, with pain, that the news from Guadalajara is so discouraging.

If the mission there is to be abandoned, we should be glad of the help of Mr. & Mrs. Howland, and Miss Belle Haskins, in Chihuahua. We have long felt the need there, of a lady missionary who could give all her time to distinctively missionary work, principally at the present time, visiting & ladies prayer meetings.

From everything of this kind, I have been debarred, through reasons already known to you: nor can I now, with certainty, plan for any such outside work, since my family may, at any moment, demand all my time again.

For this reason, and in the hope of establishing a girl's school in the near future, we would gladly welcome Miss

Haskins to our aid.

We hope earnestly, that the years work of preparation, of the other missionary families, may not be lost to Mexico, which is certainly ripe for Protestant effort.

Mr. Eaton has understood that Leon is a flourishing manufacturing city, containing many of the class of people most easily reached by the Protestant missionaries. Perhaps that place may afford a good field, for them.

Mr. Eaton gains but slowly, though we hope it is surely. On acct of his weakness, the correspondence seems to have fallen mainly, into my hands, though we hope not for long.

Thank you, most heartily, for your kind words of sympathy, which were like a tonic to my husband, in his weakness.

Very sincerely yours,

Gertrude C. Eaton

Lancaster, Mass. Sept 25.
Recd Sept 28th 1883.

June 13. 1884.

Extracts from Mrs. J. D. Eaton's Letters.

Chihuahua, Mexico, June 13/84

Mr. Wolfe, the evangelist, arrived from El Paso yesterday morning and is stopping with us. x x We had a meeting in the Chapel last night. x x We like Mr. Wolfe very much, - a great improvement on Mr. Hammond, though he claims him as his teacher. He will be here over Sunday, probably leave on Monday. Talks about bringing his printing-press and coming down here to labor independently, and yet as our helper. Wish he would.

June 16. 1884.

I appreciate Mr. Dutton more and more: am sure he has excellent staying qualities, is a good student, and a thoughtful & appreciative friend. x x It seems strange that it is so hard to get another man for this mission. If they only knew what a glorious work it is, surely they would flock hither in numbers.

I wish very much you were here to meet Mr. Wolfe. He is intensely interested in this work: said this morning that it was the most delightful and interesting field he had seen for many a day. He feels drawn to work for the Americans on the railroad; but he feels, if possible, more drawn to the

Mexicans. He was so anxious to speak to them last night, and so certain of a blessing to follow, that I, - shall I tell you? - I consented after much hesitation, much thought & prayer, to act as his interpreter. It was something I had never undertaken, as you know, and something that I knew was difficult, and I shrank greatly from the publicity of it. But I also felt that I would not for worlds stand in the way of a blessing to this people; and if I might be the channel for such a blessing, I was more than willing, yes, glad to do it, and I knew God would help me, as He has at other times.

Our dear brethren gathered in Antonia's [our Bible woman. J.D.E.] room after Sunday School, and prayed for us, and that gave me much strength. A slight rain diminished the number we might otherwise have had, though we had a fair congregation and the windows full. At Antonia's suggestion I sent a note of invitation to Don José Martinez, and he came for the first time since you left.

As Mr. Wolfe changed his theme just at the last, I did not even know what he was to

talk about. We gave a Bible reading on "God is love", and an American present remarked afterwards that he thought we were about a match for each other, as far as talking fast went. Mr. Dutton's face was almost an inspiration itself. His eyes fairly shone, and when Mr. Wolfe had finished a paragraph, he would turn to me with the most interested, expectant look. Indeed, they all listened most intently, and after the meeting one, who had been standing at the window, gave his name to Padierna [our helper,] as one who wanted to be a Christian and "belong to this Church". Dear old Padierna, whose hand grasp is usually so nerveless, took my hand in both of his, as he told me about it, while his face was glistening. As for Antonia, she took me into her arms, and cried and laughed and hugged & kissed me, all in one. Indeed, they all gave me words of appreciation. Even Sabino gave me his hand as they passed out (an unusual thing,) and said in his slow way, but very interestedly, "muy bien". [very well.] It was a heart-stirring time, and I hope may be the beginning of the blessing

for us here. Señor Martinez expressed himself as much interested, and really counted himself in as one of us by raising his hand as a believer and speaking a few words to the others.

He has promised to send a son and daughter to Sunday School, and to come here to study the Bible with me and get better acquainted.

But to return to Mr. Wolfe. He really feels as if he wanted to come here to work. He is the owner of a fine printing-press with all its belongings, which he would bring with him. He talks about interesting the Y.M.C.A. to put him as a missionary on the railroad, but says he should learn the language as soon as possible. I believe he would learn it quickly. He is not an ordained minister, nor has he had any seminary training. Still, he is intelligent and biblical, very, and in some ways would make a grand helper, especially as a touring missionary. I wonder if it would be worth while to think of him. He objects to working under any denomination, because he is entirely undenominational. But I believe such objections

could be overcome. Of course he has his vagaries and his peculiarities, but I believe he is a thoroughly good man and deeply in interest to save souls. I think I will have him write to you anyway. He has a wife and two beautiful little children.

He preached yesterday morning, and the chapel was almost full. [English service.] Some hearts were touched, I believe. In the afternoon he and Mr. Dutton went over the river, into a boarding-house and bar, where they met about twenty rough men. Mr. D. said he preached very effectively.

He is, like most of the evangelists, very hearty, physically: the way in which the food disappears, is a marvel. I never seem to be able to provide enough, no matter what I get.

He believes in living by faith. So he came in here at breakfast time one morning fresh from the train, saying he was a stranger and didn't know where to go, so he "just asked the Lord to lead him"! To my notion, he is not a consistent faith-worker, though he may think he is.

June 17. '84.

x x But I want to write more about Mr. Wolfe. Just at evening, yesterday, I had a little talk with him. He is going back tonight, but he bade me tell you that he left his heart in Mexico. "If God can use such an unworthy servant in the work here", he will be "delighted". I told him he could see very well that we were not working with the purpose of building up any denomination, but to save souls. It was because we did not like sectarian rivalry that we came here. He admits that it is so, and is willing to work under the Board, provided he may have sufficient latitude. He wants to go from ranch to ranch, and mining-camp to mining-camp, selling Bibles and preaching the gospel. He would preach to Americans wherever he met them, and of course to the Mexicans.

A Christian miner who has attended our services three or four weeks, said to him: "You are just the man needed here, you can reach these rough miners".

He can reach the Mexican heart too, I am

once. He is one of the "hail, fellows, well met", that take right hold of people. He would bring his press and run it for the mission. This he would like to take as vacation work here in Chihuahua when he has finished a tour.

He is just the man to do such touring, for he is not afraid of anything. He was nearly murdered in Newburyport for his temperance principles, a rum-seller plucking out his beard by handfuls and lacerating his throat trying to choke him. He wandered away from home as a boy and led a wild life, tho' not the most vicious. His conversion was a remarkable one, and he has had revelations of God at times, that have given him great power. All this experience enables him to reach the hearts of men, rough men especially, that another better educated perhaps, and with just as good a heart, could not do.

But he is not illiterate; on the contrary, is very intelligent, speaks English without fault, and uses good language. Strong, of course, as you would expect; when he means devil, he says devil: he does not mince matters.

In the family he is good company and

congenial, a perfect streak of sunshine. Yet he says that by nature he is taciturn and passionate in temper; that all the sunshine he has, God has given him.

I am trying to make you acquainted with him, because he shrinks from writing to you first, to introduce himself; he would rather you should write to him. He is not dogmatic as Mr. Hammond is, nor egotistical. He is humble and ready to listen to reason and look upon both sides of a question. At the same time he is very firmly persuaded of what he believes the Bible teaches. He is a second adventist, in that he believes in a second personal Coming of the Lord, and he thinks the signs of the times point to a speedy Coming, though he is not among the fanatics who set a day. Neither does this belief lessen his missionary zeal; on the contrary, it quickens it. He stands with Moody in that, believing that this world is a wreck, and we must be quick and earnest to save as many as we can before the end comes. He is sound enough, and his preaching is emphatically, Christ and Him Crucified.

He says he is not an organizer, nor ever could be. He would like to bring souls to the knowledge of Christ, and leave you to do the organizing. x x He would not be a help in school work; but as a traveling colporteur and evangelist, I think he would be first rate. You could travel in his footsteps, gather up the fruits, and organize churches: sometimes you would travel together. I believe he would be very successful in selling Bibles, as well as you; and he would do a sort of work that is much needed in preaching and exhorting which neither you nor Mr. Dutton are exactly adapted to. Then his printing-press:-

But you can see all this for yourself; only you cannot see his enthusiasm. He is bubbling over with enthusiasm and so anxious to preach to this people. Indeed, James, I would far rather have him, with his heart burning to save souls, than some one better educated in the schools, more polished perhaps, but with his heart longing just a little for "the flesh-pots of Egypt."

But I cannot advise: you must weigh

the facts as I give them, and talk it over with your father, write to him, and pray over it. It almost seems as if the Lord's hand were in it all; but we shall see. He has letters from Hammond, Major Whittle, and several ministers with whom he has worked. He does not approve of Hammond's way of selling pictures &c., and counting up converts any more than we do, and has himself expostulated with Mr. H. about it. His address is J. E. Wolfe, York. Pa.

Postscript.

With all Mr. W's strong expressions, I do not think he would deal in personalities in preaching against Romanism, for he agreed heartily with to me when I opposed the practise, and at another time told me about a R. Catholic sermon he preached in Newburyport, taking for his text, "His mother saith unto them, whatsoever he telleth you to do, do it", thus disarming prejudice.

Still Later. Mr. W. tells me he is going from here, on invitation of a missionary to the Cherokee Indians, to preach to them; but a letter sent to York, would be forwarded.

[The end.]

Rec'd June 27.

Montclair, N. J. Aug. 19. 1884,
Rec'd Aug. 20.

M. B. Trippe, ✓

Montclair, N. J.
Aug. 19th; '84.

Rev. N. G. Clark D. D.,

Dear Sir;

I have just had a conversation with a young lady of this place, who is interested in our Mission work, and would be glad to offer herself for the place of lady missionary, if, upon further consideration, she finds the way open before her. Will you be kind enough to mail one of the Manuals

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for missionary candidates
to Miss B. Trippe -
P.O. Box 370 -
Montclair, N. J.

That is, if it is your custom to send a manual before an actual application has been made.

I am to start for the West this afternoon, and have not seen the young lady until to-day, when she had but a few moments to stay. Therefore she felt that a Manual would help her to understand the conditions upon which she could join the ranks of the missionaries.

I have had a visit

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rusing an interest-
our far-away home.
I am now anticipating
peedy reunion with
husband, and hope
t before many weeks
shall be again at
r post.
Very cordially yours,
Mrs. J. D. Eaton

Conference, in an encouraging manner. I am feeling, rather more than he, the after effects of all we have been through. Howard is quite himself again, and has decided, like a true Christian, to remain behind, cheerfully, since that is the manifested Will, for him.

In closing my note, allow me to express again our deep sense of gratitude to you, and to send my kindest regards to your wife. I hope you are not quite worn out with your trip.

Very sincerely,
Gertrude C. Eaton

Rec'd Apr. 26, '86

✓

My dear Dr. Clark -

How many times we thought of you, after you left us that Monday evening! Our home seemed dearer to us, that it had been blessed by your presence, so many days. And when, only two days after you had started, the certain, in<u>alterable</u> tidings came, that our dearest Mother had passed on, out of our sight, we felt how well all things had been ordered, that I should <u>not</u> have gone, and that you, while you could not be the bearer of messages to -

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her, could still have the privilege of coming as a Comforter, to where the sisters, (Mary & Martha, as my father has loved to call them), were awaiting you. That you were indeed, a Comforter, it is my joy to tell you. They have both written to me, expressing their deep satisfaction in your visit, though they feared they had failed to make you appreciate their gratitude.

We are, all of us, more grateful than we know how to express, for this, your great, and not-to-be expected, kindness. I need hardly add to you, who have so long experienced the sustaining power of

our Divine Master, that "<u>He</u> <u>is</u> <u>faithful</u> <u>that</u> <u>promised</u>."

We are rejoicing in the effects of the meetings. All have felt the impulse, and good has certainly been accomplished. Some entire families are coming for the first time, and other families are rejoicing in a <u>united</u> service that they had not known before.

Tomorrow, we expect to start for a trip to "Cosi", hoping to gain physical benefit, as well as to accomplish some missy. work. Our stay is necessarily too short to accomplish much.

Mr. Eaton is rebounding from the severe strain of

Chihuahua —
Nov. 25 Re

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Chihuahua, Mex.,
Nov. 25 - 1886.

Dr. N. G. Clark -
Dear friend;

Among the many letters of sympathy that are no doubt, finding their way to you, in your health retreat, I desire that one from us, should not be missing.

We do not wonder that you should have been prostrated, after the meetings in Des Moines and Chicago, which were but the climax of a severe nervous strain which has been sapping your strength for months past.

We are so glad to know

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that you are recovering,
if it is slowly. You
are often in our thoughts;
your name springs readily
to our lips; and our prayers
ascend, with those of many
others, to the Giver of life,
that you may soon be
restored to your wonted
strength and vigor.
When we fail to receive your
letters, we feel as if something
had gone very wrong.

Do not trouble yourself
to acknowledge this in any
way: only let it convey to
you a breath of sympathy
and of love, from your
children in Chihuahua—

Respectfully yours—
Gertrude C. Eaton.

[illegible]

time of Miss Ferris' resignation, to have Miss K. assume charge of the school in this City, and Miss Prescott, should she be appointed, take the position in Parral, which she would naturally expect to do, being a cousin of Mrs. Case. The transfer to C. was only hastened by the illness in the Parral circle. Miss Ferris going there was entirely unpremeditated, as was my own, and only resolved upon as the clear path of duty, under the circumstances. Miss F. asked permission to accompany me, as she thought that nursing would be much better for her head than teaching, and because she felt, what was the truth, that my strength was entirely inadequate to the strain of a long season of sickness. I remained with the

Chihuahua, Mex.

Nov. 14th, 87.

Dr. N. G. Clark,

My dear father, (in the Truth);

It was a great surprise, and a most pleasant one, to find the contents of the envelope directed to Mr. Eaton, addressed to me.

I thank you for thus giving me the opportunity to write to one whom I so greatly respect and love, and whose interest in us personally, as well as in our work, is only serves to make us more desirous of being worthy of it and of Him whose name we bear. While Mr. E. is writing of matters of mission work and polity, I will confine myself to

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what is more strictly in my province, the family circle. You ask about Mr. Eaton's health and strength. He seems to be quite well at present, and is carrying quite a burden of work without apparent harm to himself. The first chill days, however, have given him some twinges of pain unpleasantly suggestive of last winter's rheumatism. We are taking every precaution, in the way of warm clothing to avert such a return as is feared. Your kindly interest in our dear boy Howard, leads me to speak con amore, and to say that he grows in stature and in grace, every day. He is unquestionably the light of the house, and when I think of the separation from him, that must come now very soon, my heart fails

me, and were it not that I know the truth of the promise, "My grace is sufficient for thee", all my days would be shadowed with the thought of what must be. The book of Mission Stories that you sent him, is one of his most cherished "Sunday books", and he is becoming quite at home with the names and customs of the people of other lands. I hope that the knowledge of their need, may lead him to give his life to their aid; I have no higher ambition for him: indeed, that is the highest.

In order to introduce you to our complete family circle, I must not omit to mention Miss Keyes, who became a member of our household the last of September. You must certainly have known of the plan proposed at the

of report may be believed, even more erratic than her sister, and has been, for a season, <u>insane</u>.

Miss Ferris' stay among us has not been in vain, I trust, either to her or to us. Personally, I am glad to acknowledge myself her debtor, for service received, and for lessons learned, in zealous missionary work.

Miss Keyes is as different from her as possible: experienced in the school-room, she has already wrought a change in order and system, that is very delightful. Her lady-like ways will also have a happy effect upon the girls. She would be glad also, to know the people in their homes, but her strength is limited, and probably we can not expect from her much more than the regular school work, day and Sundays.

She is a congenial member of the household. Mr. & Mrs. Wright seem to be very well. Though both of them appear quite delicate, they stood the strain of the Summer here alone, very well. They are thoroughly enlisted in the work, as true as steel and we believe were led to choose this field, in answer to the prayers of my sainted Mother, and others, for laborers here.

I wanted to tell you something about our beloved women here, and their enthusiastic work in the cause: but I have already wearied you. We do not want a paid Bible woman, so long as every woman in the Church feels that she has a message of life to her neighbor. They are now selling Scriptures and distributing tracts, under my supervision. I am

7.

better than before in visit to the M.B. We have prayed for you very often, and are rejoiced to know that the strain of the Springfield meeting has not been too much for you.

This letter is not written on mission paper, as I consider it a purely personal message.

Be assured that with it, goes a great amount of respect and affection from your children in Chihuahua.

Respectfully,

Gertrude C. Eaton.

P. S. We are expecting much pleasure as well as profit in meeting the other missionaries at our annual meeting Dec. 1–4.

G. C. E.

family through [illegible]
death and burial, and then came
home, bringing Miss Keyes, to take
charge of our school. Mrs. Case was
long in rallying, so Miss Ferris stayed
about a month, before taking her
final leave of it all. It is a
matter of profound regret, that
her noble qualities of heart, can
not find employment on the
mission field. But no amount
of good impulse, or even natural
talent, can take the place of a
disciplined mind and character.
And just here I feel that I must
say a word in regard to the ap-
-pointing of her younger sister,
Fanny Ferris, who has been given
to understand that she may
receive an appointment after a
course of study at Mt. Holyoke. She is,

herself in the work of this mission. I felt, dear Dr. Clark, that if you knew the entire state of the case, you would see that she was not "switched off" as happened once before in the history of this Mission.

We are hoping for a most profitable Conference, which bids fair to be also, an important one. Seeing the necessity of immediate action in the matter of the boarding-school, I have decided to offer to take charge, as a temporary thing, until some one can be sent who will undertake it. I feel that my time can be more profitably spent among the women of this City and other points, than in the school. But, considering Miss Keyes' infirmities, I am willing to undertake part of her work, in

Chihuahua, Mexico.
Dec. 5th, 1888.

Rec'd Dec. 11.

Dr. N. G. Clark,

Dear and honored Sir;

While the substance of this letter relates to mission work, I desire it to be considered a personal one to you who we have reason to believe feel a deep interest in the work and success of our mission. So I have not availed myself of the usual mission paper, desiring rather to address you in your private than official relation to us. We are on the eve of our annual meeting, after which some official communication may be sent you. Our girl's school lies like a burden upon my heart. There are two or three waiting to come to us,

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as boarders just as soon as we can give them the word. But our teacher can not take charge of them. Even in the day-school work, her strength is not sufficient to the demands: we have been obliged to hear many complaints: scholars drop out of the school and are never looked up, and of course, our school does not grow.

When Miss Keyes was obliged to give up the boarding-school last fall, I urged her writing to you. At that time she told me she could never endure another hot season here, and it was her purpose to return home at the close of the Spring term, the last of May. I felt that you ought to know it, and told her she should write you, that we might be making plans for her successor. She declined

to do so, however, or to write to the Woman's Board, which I also suggested.

My object in writing now, is to tell you, that Miss Mary Dunning who has recently made application to the Board, is a dear and intimate friend of ours, whom we believe to be specially fitted for this place. More than four years ago, I tried to influence her to come here, when we had not succeeded in finding any teacher. At that time, her home duties prevented, and she did not feel that she had any call to foreign mission work.

I had quite given up hope that she would enter the missionary ranks, but during the last year, she has been remarkably led to offer herself to the work. Not only so, but her father and mother have come to feel as much interest as

addition to my own, while she stays. Our desire is, that Mary should be here three months or so before Miss Keyes leaves, in order to have a fair chance at the language before assuming charge of the school. You will readily perceive that the difficulty is, that Miss Keyes has not yet resigned her position. The most we have been able to get her to say, is what I have stated, as the substance of her admissions to me. We are hoping that matters will so shape at Conference, as to oblige her to state her position. We do not ask for two teachers; we do not think the work justifies us in so doing.

In order to take charge of the boarding-school, we shall be obliged to leave our house on the

hill, and occupy the mission property, vacant since Mr Wright's departure. We hope to be able to live in town, now that we are so well acclimated.

Dear Dr. Clark, I fear I have taxed your patience too much: but I always feel that we have a sympathizing father in you: but I know you have a very large family to look after.

From one of ~~them~~ your children —

Gertrude C. Eaton.

American Board.
Mission to Northern Mexico
Chihuahua, Dec. 16th 1888.

Dr. N. G. Clark.

Dear Sir;

Your letter of Dec. 4th, might almost have been in answer to mine of the next day, Dec. 5th, which it undoubtedly passed on the way. There remains but little to add by way of supplement. You have probably already learned from our Secretary, Mr. Case, of Miss Keyes' statement before the missionaries in Conference. When it was distinctly stated to her that in the opinion of the Mission, one lady missionary was sufficient to carry on the work of both day and boarding school at the present stage of affairs, she said that she should then be obliged to say that she could not do the work, and asked that the Board be petitioned to send a new missionary who might be learning the language so as to take her place. She expects to close the term the middle of May, so as to return to Conn. in order to escape the worst heat. She expressed the hope that she might be able to return, and

take some place where the demands were less. I think it is her secretly cherished hope to return here, having another teacher to keep her company and do the hardest work. We are not however, as a mission, in favor of that plan, believing that our lady, with good health, can do the work that is at present needed. (Mr. Cozad of Cleveland would undoubtedly favor it, however!)

In the first lonely, insecure days of our life here, Psalm 37:3, was my daily food, and nightly pillow. Of late, the 5th verse of the same psalm has been my joy: "Commit thy way unto the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass". How many times have I had occasion to praise Him for thus bringing it to pass. In no case has this been more marked than in this: that the very choice of my heart, Mary Dunning, should have been appointed to this place, and that Miss Keyes should herself propose the very plan we most desired.

In a letter from Mary D. received this morning, she queries if it be not better for her to remain at home until Autumn, in order to take lessons in the Kinder-garten

system. Such a course of lessons would undoubtedly be of great use here, but not so necessary at present, since we have just divided the primary department from the other, expecting to place it in the hands of our most promising pupil, under Miss Kayes' direction, of course. You already know that I have offered to open the boarding-school in the present urgency, to keep it until some one else is prepared to take it. Our thought has been, that Mary should come soon, either in February or March, so as to have a few months free for the study of the language, before any school duties shall devolve upon her. School closes the middle of May, and we thought that after vacation till the middle of July, she might assume charge of the boarding-school, though she might still need, for a while, the assistance of a Mexican in the day school. That would leave us free to return to our home, (which we are abandoning temporarily, in order to receive the boarders in the mission house), and our more special evangelistic work.

There is one sentence in your letter, that I can not let go unanswered. You say: "Some little things have come to my knowledge which

have led me to feel that she was not quite happy in her relations with other members of the mission". So far as we know, her relations have been, on the contrary, uniformly pleasant. Both families at this station have done all in their power to make her comfortable, and she has seemed to appreciate it. More than once she has said to me, that she never felt so much at home anywhere, outside of her own home, as with us. She has been a pleasant friend, and it has been with reluctance that I have accepted the truth, that she is not fitted for missionary work. I have hoped [and prayed, that she might yet come to know the blessedness of unconditional surrender to the Spirit of God, to be used, (or not), of Him, in any way, and in every way appointed.

We were all greatly pleased with Miss Prescott's earnest, self-denying spirit. She has force and directness, and can not fail to be a power for good.

I fear that I have taxed your patience with so long a letter: but it is true, that "out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaketh".

Very respectfully yours,

Gertrude C. Eaton

Chihuahua, Dec. 7, 1888,
Rec'd Dec. 24.

Ferris, J & B. W.

If not too much trouble please hand the enclosed note to Mr Childs.

Mexico.

Sound Beach, Ct. Jan. 15th 1886.

Rev. Dr. Clark -

Kind Sir,

I notified you the night of the 13th inst. - during our interview - of the change in my address, and now send it to you.

My friends are happy to relieve me from all care, in regard to my out fit, so that I shall have the time to my self. I shall be ready to go to Chihuahua the 1st of March unless I receive word from you to the contrary. I am not personally acquainted with the Eatons, but lived neighbor to his wife, or Mrs. Eaton some months, hence they do not seem entire strangers to me,

Very Truly Yours -

Belle W. Ferris.

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over

Thursday the 1[illegible]

[illegible] Wright & Miss Childs [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] Wright [illegible]

1886.

[illegible]

Sound Beach, Conn.
Thursday Night.

My dear Miss Childs—,

I desire you to thank the one or ones. who were instrumental in affording me the great pleasure of attending the recent annual meeting of the Woman's Board.

It has always seemed to me. that the heavenliest place, was—where the most women were, therefore in the past two days. I was quite celestially happy. The "Worker's outfit" you gave us—could only have been prepared by a master-hand. In the future I shall be sure to read the Life and Light, with renewed interest. The appeals for helpers to Micronesia, Turkey & India. stirred the depths of my soul, why is it. that there are not more "ready to be offered up"! I wanted to go to

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P. S. On the enclosed postal, will you please write me, whe-
ir you know of any means, whereby I can obtain the Add[ress]
delivered by the Rev. Richard Storrs. D.D. — before the Americ[an]
Board — last Oct.

ll the places at once, and begin work
right away! In contemplation of
my approaching struggle with popist-
ry. I should falter, had I not left it
for the Lord to choose my field of
labor. He expects me to do my du-
ty. I expect *him* to take care of me
while I do it! In the lan-
guage of my Colored Bro. "Jordan
am a mighty hard road to trabble,
it just takes heaps of Jesus yeast to
trabble it with". In taking Christ's
spirit with me, I leave *nothing* behind
Did not stay till the meeting
closed, Thursday, for I was slightly fev-
erish from a cold, contracted two days
previous, and taking a later train,
would have necessitated my walking
two and one half mi's.
Earnestly wishing that 1886 will
bring you an increased measure of
strength and success! I am Yrs. in Chris-
tian love - Belle W. Ferris.

Sound Beach. Ct. Jan. 29th, 1886,

Dr. N. G. Clark.
Boston, Mass.
Dear Sir -,

Though I have delayed answering your letter of the 20th inst. I have duly considered its contents. And would like to make an inquiry or two.

Will I receive any salary for my first year's service, or have only just bare expenses paid? if the former, to what Amt.; and when is payment made? In the A. M. A I advanced my own traveling expenses. am I expected to do this now?

At odd moments, I study Ahn's Spanish Grammar. If in connection with my work, I require Spanish books. will the Board provide them?

Where do you propose my joining you. when we start for Mexico? Do you think Mr. Eaton would be pleased to allow me access to his Library. if he has one? I don't want to carry more books than is necessary. I wrote to Mrs. Eaton more than

a fortnight ago. and as I have received no response, expect they have written you, which is as well!

I do not need to make a draught on the Treasury for my wearing apparel. but if you can send me a trunk — not too large, that is, or the largest, but strong and plain — or the price of one, it would be very acceptable.

Received Yesterday Dr. Alden's notification of my official appointment, and of my destination to the work, as Asst. missionary. in No. Mexico.

And to-day a letter from the A. M. A., wishing me God's speed in my new Field!

It is too dark to write more, and I must sign in haste.

Yours in Christ's Service
Belle W. Ferris.

Miss Belle W. Ferris,
[illegible] Beach, Conn. Jan. 29/86,
Rec'd Jan. 30.

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a fortnight ago. And as I have received no response

Sound Beach, Ct. Feb. 2nd "86,

Dr. N. G. Clark

Boston, Mass.,

Kind Sir —,

Accept my gratitude for the prompt and satisfactory responses, contained in Yours of the 30th ult. — made to the queries in my last letter. Also for the liberal kindness expressed in your 50 dol. Check.

I would enjoy your escort to Mexico very much, but if you are unable to go, I prefer going alone. For the last 12 Yrs. I have been taking care of my self, and feel confident that I can reach Chihuahua, without mishaps - so far as my self is concerned.

You speak of taking a "Pullman from here", right through. Why not start from N. Y. C. it being nearer and more direct?

My arrangments for departure will be completed this wk., I shall then have a fortnight to obtain all the solid comfort in, I can. And if you are then positive you can not go, and 'tis agreeable will start

P.T.O.

on the 20th " or the 21st " .

All moneys received from Society will be strictly kept in account.

For traveling expenses to Boston and Providence, prior to the 50 dols. on outfit, I have had 18. dols.

Very Truly Yours,

B. W. Ferris.

Mis B. W. Ferris —
Sound Beach
Feb 2 1884
Feb 2 1886

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Sound Beach Ct. Feb. 2nd 1886.

Rev. Dr. Clark.

Kind Sir,

To night I received this letter from Mrs. Eaton. which I enclose thinking that there may be some portions in it that may interest you.

I shall depend upon you to see that the carpet & bedding is shipped from your place. Please note that the newness of things should be rubbed off. And that the room is 13 ft. 8 ins. each way.

I shall make a brief visit on my relatives in Montclair shortly. and will meet Mrs. E's Mother, according to their mutual desire and request.

As you may not have leisure or desire to read the entire letter. You will find what you need to know in the middle of the 2nd sheet.

Very Sincerely
B. M. Ferris,

I will look after the matter of the Industrial School needs, still if any of your ladies can conceive of aught that would help Mrs. E—, they are welcome to contribute.

If Mrs. E— includes mattrass in bedding, I don't like spring ones!

aid in whatever way they can.
I shall need no more funds on outfit!

Yours Respt.
B. W. Ferris.

Please excuse frozen ink!

Miss B. W. Ferrie,
Sound Beach, Conn.
Feb. 7th 1886.

N. G. Clark, D.D. Rec'd Feb. 9.
Boston

Dear Friend—,

Your suggestions in regard to bedding have been acted upon. I had a general out-fit for bed given by my Grandmother some little time ago, which was packed away, and I had forgotten until reminded by my Mother. The chances for my finding something to sleep on, down there, are sufficiently reassuring for me to take the risk.

A carpet is not an essential in a warm climate. However I sent you Mrs. E's letter—which has been returned—that you

might read it, and ^than^ act upon your own judgment! There is a small possibility of my baggage weighing more than legally allowed, but even so, it will cost no more to take it with me than to have it transported by its self.

Your allusion to my S. Beach friends helping me, arrested my attention!

We have a weak auxillary of the N. H. Branch here. Yet my mother is the only educated, mind and heart, missionary in the place. And as I am the first, to go off on a "missionary craze" they have yet to see the use of it, ere they are with me heart and hand. And I should rather work up the general cause than my own individual one.

Nevertheless I have relatives who are right glad to give me

Sound Beach Ct. Feb. 16th 1886

N. G. Clark, D.D.

My kind Sir –

Yours with Mr. Eaton's letters enclosed received to-night.

I have carefully perused the latter, and also a briefly written letter from both Mr. and Mrs. Eaton. Mrs. E– states that if I have freight coming, her Husband should know it, that he may go up to the Custom House, and see it through. Also, if it is not already sent, to send it in care of Julian & Johnson, El Paso, Texas. And that I will find American's with hacks at the Chi. Station! Mr. E– desired me to state when I would leave, and at what time I would probably reach my destination. And to be sure to bring a supply of light weight stationery with me. I believe now the whole ground is covered, and I can shut down my two trunk-lids, and my two eye-lids– in satisfac-

Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.
Chihuahua, Mexico.
May ~~11~~ 1886.

Outfit Account of Miss B. W. Ferris.

	Mex. silver
"Duty" & Charges on Ingrain Carpet,	$ 21.35
Carpet lining, for brick floors,	2.80
Book-case,	4.70
	28.85
Deduct pay^t by Miss Ferris,	6.25
Balance	22.60

$22.60 Mex. silver = $18.08 Am. gold.

Above account is correct,
B. W. Ferris.

be right glad she came after.
she is more used to customs
and Language of People. Says
she finds it much pleasenter
than she expected. The Wrights
so far as I am able to judge.
are just the ones that the
work needed to carry it on.
They seem contented, &c. are
working at the Spanish right
earnestly. The rains
have at last come - and na-
ture is glad; so are we, and
when they come through on
our bedding, best clothing &c.
pictures, by the whole sale, we
set soup-plates around, and
try to be joyful, but when
you can't keep dry in your own
room - without holding an um-
brella over you, you are dis-
posed to appreciate the dry

Chi.- Mexicano.

July 12th 1886.

To the dear Friends engaged with me in this Work,

Greetings—

If any of you are suffering from ennui or want to do something that savours of <u>real work</u>,— Come to Mex! With equal amounts of gumption, faith and grit for capital you can commence any wheres. This Country is beginning to open up as never before. Its people are beginning to see and feel the life-throb of other nations. A spirit of emulation has been excited. Many

and are ready to embrace any thing, that is made attractive, and has the elements of progress in." Every hour the imperative demand for protestantism is increasing. We have a little oasis started in this City. Its worth incalculable at money's value, yet takes - I am well aware not a little of that value, to keep it in a refreshing condition, And as our cooling streams & verdure extend out in to the hot sands and shadows of iniquitous de-spair - it will require more hard dollars still. O christ! enable us to study this question and see it from thy point of view - that we may lack neith-er heavenly or worldly wisdom

in working with thee!

Just here I here I had to go to School. And in half an hour this has to go to Mail, There are so many things I have to say to you, but will be obleged to post pone the saying.

In calling the roll to night - 30. scholars responded to their names. The rest of the School-term, which ends in Sept. - bids fair to be more prosperous than was the first half, even. Mrs. Keyes will be quite a help to me in School - while she is staying here to study the Language.

It is a solid pleasure to greet some one down here from my own State. I think she will

in working with thee!

Just here I ~~here~~ I had to go to School. And in half an hour this has to go to Mail. There are so many things I have to

season more than formerly.

One of our church members was detained in jail for nearly three weeks, ostensibly for whipping his boy, but really because he was a protestant.

During that time his wife was not allowed to see him, and he was kept on the meanest of food, subject to the insults and abuse of prison officials, & prisioners, but his spirit never wavered. Two men with families have recently united with us. Their wives made artificial flowers, which their husbands sold. Now no one will patronize protestantes. Suffering for life's necessaries as they are, they still cling to their Faith.

attention of passers-by a good deal. Usually they occasion us no interruption, but at times oaths, stones, and saliva are thrown in upon us. Our persecution is almost entirely from the lower classes, influenced to it by the priests.

I am told that some of my boys are smoking cigarettes around in the cork-pit. I will have to go to them.

Good-bye!

J. W. Ferris

Chihuahua, Mex.
July 12th. 1886

N. G. Clark, D. D.
Secy of Amer. Board
Boston, U. S. A.

Kind Friend— Your letter of the 26th ult. was received on the 9th inst. And have deferred until now, replying to your inquiries, because the arrival of our new Helpers— though a solid comfort to me— did'nt add to my lesiure any for a few days.

Mr. Eaton left last Thursday for Paso del Norte, — en route for Lancaster— where he remained for a few days trying to settle a most bothersome difficulty; of his success, I have not learned. He left the mission here in the best of order— & I have strong hope that it will remain so, during his absence. For there is a spirit of harmony existing among us now; having just climbed one hill of discord it is reasonable to expect smooth driving for a little way.

(Mr. E., left us a day too soon— though very loath to lose sight of the work at all— His unweighted up nerves, were not conducive to increasing the good health of those about him. A man that does the work of two men, requires the rest of two. One can't do hard work here, without wearing out. You I hope! am not over-doing? I trust you are not. Should like to have you [illegible] as long as [illegible]. I am well thank you, as we all are, when my head which is the weakest part of me gets weary. I stop! M. J. Davis

We are looking for the Crawfords every day now. and we shall hail their arrival with delight. as I don't feel confident to take the responsibility of Church-services yet. Still our meetings for prayer & praise, are being kept up very creditably by our hermanos y. hermanas.

In regard to the carpet! I had a few dollars given me by a friend - A trifle I gave Mr. E - to help defray the cost of duty on the carpet - And also paid for nearly 2. mos. Spanish instruction. with the remainder. The balance of $22.60. due on carpet. I have no way of meeting. and will have to be met by Board. The last thing I desire in this land of fleas is - a carpet. however it will be of use to some one who is flea-proof. Treas. Ward will be reimbursed ere long - for the sum he has advanced on organ. Mr. E - holds 60, dols. at present towards paying for it. and the fund is growing.

Mrs. E - was the occasion of having the School open so soon - It was a good start, and the present prospects are not at all discouraging. However, they need in this Mission a good professional teacher more than a lady - missionary. nevertheless I am willing to try & keep my ends up, for 2 yrs. At the expiration of which time, I shall seriously object to carrying the burden of school-labor longer.

I have averaged about 2. hrs. study per. day on Language &c. have taken Lessons regularly. While I am teaching I can do more. without sinning.

Chia., Mex. Aug. 4th, 86.

W. G. Clark, D.D.

Congl. House, Boston.

Kind Friend -

Your letter of the 16th ult. finds me in very good health and spirits as good as the continued hot season, and a leaky clay roof, will permit. A slight epidemic has prevailed in the City by reason of the effect the recent rains caused upon the water.

Mrs. Wright and my self were ailing for a few days, but not seriously. And now both are quite restored. However out of compassion for the children, - as I had become cross, - I closed School for one week. We are to work again now and if you could peep in upon us, you would be interested to see the air of business characterizing us all. as well as the variety of children that work pretty harmoniously together; and also the over flow

that I have seated in the other room. It requi[res] the liveliest kind of teacher to do aught with School. As yet I believe I am master-spirit [of] it. but woe to the Collegio Chihuahuense if I should lose an iota of ground— Every morn[ing] I feel ~~the~~ my inequality for the task before me, [eve]ry night— tolerably weary, without feeling [...]
After a little better organization, and sy[stem]atization will remove some of the present [dif]ficulties. In the mean time, we are no[t] standing still

The Wrights and Miss. Keyes had hear[d] naught about their baggage in El Paso, until 2 das. ago, when they received the intelligence that their goods had been ~~shipped~~ transferre[d] in to another Company. Accordingly Mr. Wrig[ht] and Miss Keyes both went up last night. a[s] they were told their presence there would d[o] much toward lightening the duties charged.

We are assured that there will be no trouble [in] regard to getting the things down here— of course [the] delay has been awkward.

I thank you for your kind [inten]tions in regard to the Organ for our Sch[ool]

3

t Mr. Eaton has the settlement of it
charge. And will doubtless attend to
soon, if he has not already.

Would send a letter to the La-
in this - but it would of necessity be
hurriedly written, that I will not send it
nor now.

We missionaries are quite
ong in nos. at present. And have no
kness to speak of. nor no deprivations

We are obliged to drive slowly however because of the heat. The Crawfor[d] went right to work the moment they ar[r]ived. And are now keeping house quite to their satisfaction.

A letter from Mrs. Eaton, speaks very hopefully of her own condition of health. And also of that of Mr. E's im[p]roved. I look for their return abo[ut] the 1st Oct.

Very Sincerely
R. W. Ferris.

Chihuahua, Sept. 18th, 86

N. G. Clark. D.D.
Boston, Mass.

Kind Friend —

After reading your cheery letter, of the 9th inst. to Mrs. Wright — said to myself, there! I have'nt acknowledged Dr. Clark's last missive to me. will write him a line right off!

The Eatons arrived on the 15th, much to the rejoicing of the entire mission. The enthusiasm, refreshment, and courage, which they bring with them. has already caused to be felt amongst us, — a new impulse for upward and onward. We all realize the fact however that neither Mr. or Mrs. E—. are strong. They must no longer feel the entire brunt of the labor to be done. And as we are a growing mission, there is no reason why they should! The Wrights are settled in a very comfortable, home like way in their own house, and seem very contented. Mrs. W's attractive home, and self. will be no

small aid in helping on the good work. And a gre[at]
relief to Mrs. E—. that the People. have now another
Christian-home. besides her own, to visit.

Mr. E—, plunged in to work immediately upon his arriv-
al. in a manner that makes us fearful. Still he
is much better. than I ever saw him. And now th[at]
he has things adjusted. to suit him. will, we trust ta[ke]
a breathing. spell. Mr. E—, with my-
self, examined Yesterday a bill, for goods sent fr[om]
Boston last June. — found to our astonishment
that the charge on organ was not carried in to the
debit-column. leading us naturally to infer tha[t]
the Organ is a present to the Mission. if correct in
our inference, and as my interest in the matter, is per-
haps larger than any others.— I desire to say that I a[m]
deeply grateful to the one, or ones, who procured us th[is]
favor. I needed an instrument to give lessons
on, and felt that in adding to the attractiveness of ou[r]
School. it would more than pay for it self.

I begin to grow happier and more interested in
my work. More reconciled to my lot as teacher.
The heat and fleas are moderating. believe I shall be le[ss]
wicked during the winter, than I have the past Sum-
mer. Notice in the Life & Light, that I am
credited with having started the School here. As you know—the School
was started before I came. Its teacher, Srita Orosco. Since I came, it has spread out!

Resp. Yours in Christ's work—, J. W. Harris(?)

Rec^d May 11 87

Christ to show them their want.

May 5th. We were shook up two days ago by an earthquake. The rumble has'nt left my head entirely yet. It is generally believed that God has begun to send his judgments because of the Protestants in the Land.

To night is the annual church anniversary. Reports of the different branches of the work done during the will be given, and singing by the children will help fill out the program.

I write regularly to the Branch - supporting me - as my time and ability will permit. It has been a very comforting surprise to me. the interest they are manifesting in this Mission-station.

God's World seems fuller of his people, when you start working for Him. Precious memories of Miss A. B. Child come to me, and her own work is an inspiration to me. She helped hold me up last Summer. Things

have'nt been as hard since. No one can really hold us, but He who holds us in the ...

low ... hand ... Have w... it is ... you wan... will tr... a gan... I am ... Your S... in Chri... Belle ... Eter...

Chihuahua, Mexico,
May 2nd 1884.

Sec. N. G. Clark D.D.
Boston

Dear Dr. Clark,

Thank you for an invitation to write you a word. Yet should have written without one, if there had been any thing very important to have said.

It seems only a few weeks since you were here, at the Church Ordination, and though a year has slipped by, your strong faith and encouraging words, are still helping to support us, in times of trial. The times that try the souls of God's servants - is about all the time is'nt it? We are disappointed, that our School is not reaching a larger No. of children. We have tried every conceivable plan, to make the School attractive and one worth attending. Having the name of teaching the Devil, does'nt give us very many to teach, However, only one, has

left us from any dissatisfaction. That one was taken out by a Romanist mother, enrag-eg because I politely requested her not to smoke in the school-room. It was stupid of me to have done it, but the smoke nau-seated me. There have been two rival schools started within a few mos. One on each side of us. While over many of the schools, you will see signs reading - Enseñanza en la doctrina Cristiana, 'Yet I believe the merits of our school will make themselves felt in the commun-ity after a little. The parents need ed-ucating first, to know what teaching is.' Municipal schools are common as dirt, and the training they have to offer is freer than water. It is quite apparent that the school will grow according to the increase of Believers. I have stood the work better than I had reason to expect I should. and take much pleasure in it. Am better equipped this yr. for work And shall do more for the Cause or les

for myself. I took your advice and have tried to take care of my health. He has blessed my efforts in this direction if in no other. Even if I have no converts to count up, if I am blessed with strength sufficient to do the work given me, and to live among so much Godlessness, as a Xtian should, shall feel that my life here has not been a failure. In house to house work have accomplished very little, though have utilized all my spare time in this way. My usual school-day is from 8.30 to 6. P.M. even with an Asst., and when I tried getting on without one, instead of getting on, I got used up. Mrs. Wright gives invaluable assistance in the Industrial dept., Mrs. Eaton is working with her usual success among the women, who look up to her as a teacher and a mother.

Mr. Eaton's influence as a man, if not as a Protestant minister, is ever on the increase. He is universally respected and has influence with the better classes. Their need of the Xtian religion is not yet felt. We pray

Chihuahua, Mex., July 25th" 1887,

N. G. Clark, D. D.
Congl. House, Boston.
Dear Dr. Clark

In as much as the Board has been, or straightway will be, informed by the Mission here, that my health is broken, and that the prompt appointment of my successor is earnestly desired and being sought for, — It does not seem to me, wholly uncalled for, that I make a statement in my own defense.

When the query was put to me, by some of your people - viz. Why had I left the A. M. A? my reply was, I was looking for mission-work, where I would have fewer hours in the school-room, than they had to offer me!

Was sent here, and have no fault to find. But am simply unable to carry the School on, — even with Mr. Wright to manage and a Mexican to help me! Therefore I desire to retire while I have head enough left to be of some use to my self. Am sorry to occasion the ex-pense of sending another worker here, so soon. But my

own traveling expenses from here, will my self defray.— in part by what salary have saved.

That the ladies, who have interested themselves in my work — may know, that although a failure — I'm not a consummate fraud — Be so good as to show them this letter!

At heart, am still a missionary, and whether <u>under</u> a board, or from in under it; in this <u>life</u> or out of it, shall find <u>some</u> place for Mian endeavor.

Resp'd. Yours, A. D.

I. M. Ferris.

P. S. While needed, will remain at my post!

Rev. I. M. Ferris, Chihuahua, July 25, 1882, Recd. Aug. 1.

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Chihuahua, Mex.

Aug. 22nd 1887,

Rev. Dr. Clark,

Kind Friend -

After your prompt dealing, and kind patience with me, the least I can do in return is to acknowledge it by a word of appreciation. If I am too familiar, lay it to my New Eng. breeding. - and pardon the following personality - I consider my slight acquaintance with yourself - sufficient compensation for the loss of vitality I sustain in coming to Chi'a!

And would add that I respected your advice, and have not worked nights since coming here!

As I had proven before, school-work tears me all to pieces. Yet I enjoy it, and even on a Holyday feel lost, unless I hunt some one up to instruct.

Ever since last Summer, when I tried to harmonize "Gringos & Greasers," and teach the same thought in both languages - not knowing one of them - the sensations in my head have had a tendency to make me sad. Doubtless, would have received

P.S. A special Missionary is not need here now. for as yet prejudice keeps the doors closed to the Evagelio. -

Sincerely, J. W. Harris.

more encomiums. if I had waited until a colla[pse]
had set in before sending a request for release,
but did not feel justified in holding out any hope
that I could stay longer than my substitute could
be found. Think I ~~could~~ can do my work, regularly
well until Spring - if necessary. My Asst. is be-
coming somewhat more competent. And the School
under a solid man - Mr. W—, has settled on a solid
basis. with 20. in the boys dept. & 19. in the girls.

A man here to-night - who has recently put four children
in School - to ask prayers for a grievously sick mother,
who has denounced & disowned him because of his Prot-
estantism. "In Her presence he dare not venture to enter, he can
only pray for her". Consulted no one ere I
sent in my resignation, except my own head & stom-
ach. The latter of which has been better, since I have
been living with the W's. and not obliged to go out for
my midday meal. Please tell no one
else about the "good spirit I have evinced," for I've been
ugly as "Cain", many times. Still when the Lord
shows me something to do. its not my place to tell Him
I can't do it! Yet if it had been His ~~plea~~ will - I would
nor could have asked for no greater honor, or pleasure, than
ending my existence - a laborer under the A. B.

Now the most permanent good I can do the mission is to make room for my successor.

Expect the Cal[illegible]ons to-morrow.

Believe He, who cares for his own, will [illegible] any steps. But if it won't be incon- [illegible] ving you too much, will you frequently [illegible] office?

Cordially [illegible] M. [illegible]

I wrote as courteously as I knew how, refusing to accept Miss C's invitation to the meetings, on account of weak nerves - how I came to change my mind - you know.

Thought if I just attended & avoided recognition, could get along without being upset. But as all the other fields were being mentioned - I had a sudden, strong impulse to speak for Old Mexico - hence my request. However have been able to eat a hearty supper. And if you don't deem it ever advisable to return me to Mex. more in the capacity of missionary than teacher - It is alright!

Have felt, what ever others had, that you had faith in me.

Thus far I have been loyal to the Board & its missionaries.

And pray that I ever shall be - but I'm being tem

Rec'd Jan. 13.

Cpt. Boston,
Jan. 12th 1888.

N. G. Clark, D.D. &c
For. Sec. of the A.B.C.F.M.

Dear Friend

Yesterday when called upon you had in mind to make a proposition which occurred to me after deciding to come to Boston — Did not present this proposal, thinking I could write it concisely — more —, thus saving the time of both.

Depot. 6. P.M.

Will you please excuse these pencil marks?

The proposal I have to mention is briefly, thus —

At Paso del Norte, as you

Please pardon pencil

W. H. Isbell

Here I sho... find se... for a... my...

...ed pretty strongly. My future address is — 149. N. Union St. Burlington Vt.

CONGREGATIONAL HOUSE,
Boston, March 20, 1887.
Chihuahua.

know— there is a little church started by Felipe Hernandez.

To gain a livelihood, some of the Chihuahuan church have moved their families on the other side of River.

The Mexicans in this vicinity are being molded in a measure by the American character about them. If there is any place needing a strong than garrison—it seems to me, to be here. The Paso del Norte people pleaded with me to return to them. And the desire to be sent to them, has been growing upon me. For I've always had a desire to help Mex., although my present conduct may belie me.

With the addition of a room

to live in — to the salary I had
allotted to me previously, my
Sister & self could easily
live there. Building up a
school only, as we could
make it self-supporting.
Will you be so good as
to give this consideration, or
refer it to Chihuahua — ere
shaking your head dubious-
ly? Also, will you kind-
ly ask Miss Child, if she, or any
of the Officers rec'd a postal
card bearing my name, and
requesting B. Mins. to speak
for Mex.? If it was against
the regulations to present such
a petition — very well. If in-
tended for a personal slight —
I would like to know where-
fore I merit it!

over

live in.– to the salary I had
allotted to me previously, my
sister & self could easily
Building up a

the A. R.

Chihuahua. Mexico

CONGREGATIONAL HOUSE,

Boston, March 20, 1887.

The following blank is sent to all Seminaries and High Schools connected with the American Board, to ascertain as far as possible their religious condition during the last year.

Please fill out and return this page at your early convenience to one of the Secretaries.

(1.) Average number of pupils during the past year. 26, the last half. 35. the 1st, ½.

(2.) Number from Christian families? 26

(3.) Number from outside? 23

(4.) Number of professed Christians among pupils? 3

(5). Number of pupils who have become Christians during the year? 4

(6.) Facts relating to special religious interest, if any?

In Jan. Mr. Wright started a boys' pryr. meeting which has been well attended, now every boy takes part freely in the meetings.
In the Day School there is a growing interest in our daily Bible study and the weekly temperance lesson. Have strong hopes of one, if not two of our girls desiring to unite with Church next communion. Since the wk. of prayer, greater zeal & earnestness has characterized our young men. (over)

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Daughter has the hono
ing my first patien
I felt as if I had b
experimented upon.
In this instance h
er was complimented, u
strength of endurance.
In the missionary exper
– dismay and disappoi
ment were expressed. "
my endurance, was not w
my appearance - indicat
Dr. Clark feel tha
did no wrong in leaving
Field as I did - but a
strength of body and b
is returning to me - sh
hate myself through a
eternity, if I did not go b
to where I know the Lo

149. N. Union St.
Burlington Vt.
Feb. 2nd 1888.

N. G. Clark D. D.
Boston Mass.

Dear Friend,

Your response to the letter I wrote in the Boston depot—received shortly after I reached here—was in both tone and matter, all I could desire.

When last Aug. I sent in my resignation there seemed no prospect of a release from my work until the ensuing Spring.

Having been running

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down for a year before it occurred to me that I must have a change, And that it would be sure destruction to remain after the hot season had again commenced. However, Providence managed things differently. The strain was lifted - while still there remained - a sufficient portion of strength to me - to build upon a greater supply.

Instead of asking for a furlough - resigned my position because, thought I had served a pretty good apprenticeship at teaching American children - who invariably after

ar or two, returned to the
es, where they had good
cational advantages
was it for this - that I
t - I had left Father, Moth-
etc. Still I have no com-
nts to make - or told you that
l none. Yet can not but
, as I did, when in child-
d - my Mother took me
new dentist, for tooth-
action. After much oper-
g on his part, and agony
mine - the aching mem-
was dislodged. Whereup-
e exultantly exclaimed to
her - "Madame, have long
red for more practical ex-
nce in my art - your

asked, if there were no B--, Ladies, willing to go, and try to teach the Natives - that lying loose and above-ground was not the proper place for their skulls?

Several Mo's yet will be required, ere I could feel it prudent to return to a warm climate. But when I do, shall try to be careful - not to expose myself to heat - or drink the water ad libitum, nor to use up continually to-morrow's strength in to day. In the mean time, tending baby is my heaviest task. Had some idea of securing Spanish scholars - when I came but have abandoned it, deem- it wiser, to spend the time on my own edu

still, has work for me to [illegible] do. Had no expectation when I resigned, of the Board's reappointing me, yet considered it not an altogether - improper thing for them to do so.

While en route for Boston a few weeks since - it came to me with overwhelming force - that I should again take up my abode among the despised "Greasers." It would suit me quite as well to go - depending on my own resources, for a livelihood. In doing this though, should have to encounter great opposition from relatives - who prefer - if I will be a - "crank"

that I should be associated with those of similar persuasion. When starting out before - said I had no objection to doing <u>some</u> teaching. Hav to day, the same attitude toward the work, as then. But want some strength as well as time allowed me - to impress the perishing ones around me. that I possess just such a faith and solace, as <u>they</u> need. If make no converts - will strive with God's help to live decently - in a Land, where respectable christianity is at at terrible discount.

Often wonder, why some of our christians, living on retired means - do not establish themselves in homes - in the waste places of the Earth.

A few Xtian americans, to counteract the vile influences of the riff-raff continually pouring into Mex. would help along that Country's evangelization, mightily.

Would have liked to have told the ladies at the Conference - viz. A little while before I left Chi'a. - two Boston ladies were seen prowling around its cemeterys, they secured some skulls - to take home to be polished & fixed up - into parlor - ornaments - should liked to hav

ter - Also be obliged to attend on limited means her ardor suddenly cooled. Thought perhaps if I had her with me - could get something out of her. She makes beautiful missionary remarks -

Have referred my proposal in regard to Paso del Norte to the Eatons - doubt however if they will favor my return to Mex. as I left Chihuahua We shall see - I.W. Ferris

Have been morbidly sensitive about meeting people - since my return but it is not from shame.

I suggested my Sister's going to Mex. with me - For a capable girl she is the laziest I ever knew - Would never have sent in her application to go to Africa - had I known the depth of her ambition, when she found she would be obliged to enter Mt. Holyoke and have to pony up on so much Latin &c Algebra - to en-

of Felipe's Wife, into a bright, attractive Chapel. To the apparent, general satisfaction of all - I started in, & led the singing. For in the morning's preaching service - I noticed that everyone, seemed bent on leading themselves, and sang not with the understanding - so much as with the "spirit."

At close of the S. School, they crowded about me - with regrets for my departure, and adioses. The one expression of their hearts seemed to be - When you get to your "home" - in the far No. Señorita - remember us & come back to us, for we somos ignorantes." Several insisted upon accompanying

Burlington, Vt.

Feb. 9th 1888.

N. G. Clark, D.D.

Boston, Mass.

Dear Friend -

Two days ago, rec'd from Mrs. Eaton - a postal - stating that her Husband was then, at the Conference in Mex. City. Upon his return - a Station-meeting would be held - to consider my proposition as regards Paso del Norte. In reference to this subject - I venture to address you again - as I have not told you, why - it

seems to me - that at the aforementioned place - there is need of more workers.

First however - permit me, to correct a mis statement in my last letter, viz. Respectable Xtianity is at a premium, not at a descount, in Mex. Something of this you must have observed, during your brief visit to Chi'a.

It was a bright, beautiful afternoon, the last Sunday in Oct. 87, The little congregation of Felipe Hernandez had gathered for S. School.

Sitting next to me - were two girls - who walked 3. mi's from out in the country, twice a wk., to attend, divine worship. To my right sat the blacksmith, surrounded by his sturdy family. Behind sat an old, old man, once a persecutor, of Protestants, now one of the most ardent acceptors of their faith. Near the door - was a scholar - who came over from El Paso - where he is Prof. of languages in the Seminary - to listen to Felipe expound the Scriptures. What a picture, the man of learning - sitting at the feet of the poor Cargador - to be taught!

Some 20, odd persons had assembled in the spacious room, fitted up by the deft fingers

the school paraphernalia down there you are a mind to.
Open all the chapels you can.

Mexico will never be carried by storm, for protestantism. It must be for years - a hand to hand struggle. Priest, or sneak craft can only be overcome by a quiet, unobtrusive, steady push. "With the Divine ally and the wisdom of the serpent."

After teaching 8 or 9 hrs. it is physically impossible to carry much brightness into these homes or holes of misery. One thing that actuated my resignation - was the information, that the "mission-work, was allotted to me, to the river's bank, where I was ferried across in a flat-bottomed skiff. Looking back, I thought of the wretchedness, &c. the People "sitting in great darkness" - that I was leaving behind me. - and tears sprang to my eyes! It seemed that the Savior's voice was saying over this nation, also, "How oft would I have gatered, etc."

The following day, visited the Public School - El Paso, in which, several of the pupils I had in Chi'a. were trying to get an education. As the instruction given, was entirely in Eng. And they had no means of finding the sense of the words was not surprised - to find

that they had not progressed much since leaving me. They are unable to pick up Eng. words rapidly, for the Amer. children refuse to associate with "Greasers". Yet their mother, of the Arriola's, at great sacrifice, lives up here, in hopes of "affording her children a good education, and then taking them back in to the hill regions to be missionaries."

Frequently those who become protestants, are forced to go to El Paso, or some other point across the boundary, to obtain work, or slowly starve where they are. For even frijoles can not be had, without a few tlacos.

The missionaries at Chi'a are better able to decide as to the need in P. del Norte, than am I. With their decision, I shall be satisfied. If it should be favorable, let me state at the beginning that I can teach with impunity but from 3 to 4 hrs. per diem. But all my time will be devoted in some way, to the advantage of those whom I am among.

About three fifths of the Mex. children die, because the mothers know not how to care for them. Texas Americans gloat over this, as they think it will make the Country more easy of vanquishment. But all

Burlington Vt.
Feb. 17. 1888

married, not single ladies, who unless physicians, were sent out to labor in the schools.

However, if there is a place unoccupied by a missionary and his wife. I presume a single lady might be in demand to do some of the evangelical work.

Need I state, that the hardest thing I had to confront in Kex. - was the necessity of abandoning the field, just as I could speak with some degree of freedom - to those about me - "of Jesus which is the Christ."

Without much of an education, and lacking any

especial gift - still I feel, that there is a work, for me to do - that perhaps others - with more culture - might hesitate to take hold of.

At a missionary - meeting day before yesterday, met a company of very nice ladies - particularly a Mrs. Torrey - who, my Cousin says - was so kind to her, when she came here a stranger! Burlington's social atmosphere, is much more helpful, than that of Sound Beach, though the latter place, contains my precious old home stead.

Will not write again, until I have something, really worth saying.

In concluding - allow me - please - a word of explanation in regard to Parral - I offered to stay with the Cases all Winter. But 'twas thought best by them, & those at Chi'a, that I should start for home - so soon as Mrs. Case's health would permit. Under the circumstances, think I did the wisest thing.

The great misfortune of my life, has been, in depending too much upon B. Ferris.

It is stupendous, the amount of missionary work, one has to do upon them selves - ere they can be a missionary to others!

Sincerely Yours - Belle M. Ferris.

149. N. Union St.,
Burlington, Vt.
Feb. 28th '88

N. G. Clark. For. Sec. of A. B.
Boston, Mass.

Kind Friend,

You will be interested to know the reply rec'd from the Chihuahuan Mission, to the question you directed me to put to them, in regard to Paso del Norte. They respond as follows, "We do not consider it wise for you to return to Mexico."

Mrs. Eaton advises me to read the Board Manual.

Mrs. Wright objects, be-

there is no use in living!

Without the spirit, that Martin Luther manifested, when he said—"if there were as many devils as roof-tiles, I would on"!—there is no use in engaging in a conflict against Papistry!

Three letters from Chi'a assure me, of the prosperity & encouraging aspect of the work in all directions. You see, all that was needed, was to get rid of—Jonah!

Have taken your advice, as regarded, rest. Avoiding mental and nervous strain, & doing only physical labor. Shall always enjoy the brief call I made on you, in Jan. last. And trust you still have as good health, as then.

Sincerely & Resp't— Yours
Belle W. [illegible]

that they ...
much, sir ...
are unable ...

especial gift—still I feel, that there is a work for me to do. that perhaps others—with more ...

saying.

In concluding—allow me—please—a word of expla- ... in regard to Parral— ... with the

cause Mex. is all "high altitude". And that there is no mission-ary family where I propose going.

Dr. Wheeler, of this City (who stands at the head of his profession) is treating me for nervelessness. He pronounces me organically sound, capable of enduring more hard work, than the average woman. But also states, that my nervous sys. could never adapt itself to the altitude of Mexico.

My kindred all oppose my return to Mex. It is a satisfaction to me, to have agitated the subject, trying to find out what is the Lord's will in regard to it. And though I am shut out from that Country. My faith, that Mex. will yet be saved for Christ, grows stronger. And have much hope, that yet, I shall be connected, directly, or indirectly with its evangelization.

Met yesterday the Hutchinson family, residing in this place. Rev. Mr. H-, was pioneer missionary under the Presb. Board, to Mex. City. Dr. Green's predecessor. He with his entire family are suffering from the effects of Mex. Climate. Wife dead. He a paralytic.

Without piety and grit.

Miss Belle W. Ferris

Burlington, Vt.
May 17th, 1888,

N. G. Clark, D. D.
Foreign Sec. of the A. B.

Dear Friend,

After much reflection and prayer for guidance, am unable to feel that the door of Mex. is closed against me, until I make some further effort for entrance. Did not realize, when I left, how much my sympathy and interest was enlisted for — "Greasers."

If I can find any Board who has a station at an altitude of not more than 2000 ft. And who will require of me, not more than 1. session a day, in the

for my Mother's opposition, should return this fall, to Mex. on my own means, and trust to the Lord an my own exertions for support, when I reached there.

Dr. Clark, confidentially I would like to say, (not because I want to meddle in another's affairs, but because painfully enough — I have found I was not a 365. day clock my self) that, if Miss Keyes has only the Mo. of June out of the intense hot weather for her vacation, she will be ready to come home another Summer, and go to the hospital for repairs, as Belle Haskins did, or come home, as Belle Ferris did, humiliatingly cross.

If the Mexican teachers who

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cause Mex. is all "high altitude" in regard to it. And though
And that there is no mission- I am shut out from that climbing-allow
ary family where I propose ing. My faith that Mex. will of expla-
... to Parral-
... with the

school-room, you will probably be referred to, by such a Board, for a report of my standing while in service under the A. B.

I write, thinking it proper, that you should learn from me, my design, before reference, for the above purpose is made you.

I don't want to be wilful, or cranky in regard to this thing. But am unable to regulate my conscience, so that it feels easy, when I try to think the Lord has no more service down there.

I believe you were divinely directed, when you appointed me to Mex. and to Chihuahua. Finding however, that I could not fill the position given me considered it my duty, to let some one else have it.

Have always maintained that a mission-teacher's duty was in the homes of her scholars, as much as in the school-room with them. What the children lose by this course, in lessons, they make up in character.

Now, it was presumptive in me, to apply for readmission to the Board, after the precipitate way, I left it. Should never have done so, had you not written me, while I was at my home.

If I go not to Mex. this year, and strength be given me, to warrant my undertaking it, shall go later on. If I decide thus, shall try to labor among the freedmen the coming winter. If it was not

run along through the Summer. Is that any reason, why the teachers, who govern and instruct, - expending what nerve force they have, and sometimes more than they have, - should do likewise? The Gentlemen of the Mission, who occasionally look into the school, have charge of devotional exercises, or hear a pupil in their study - do not understand the weariness and mental depression, as do those who spend hour after hour, in hard, conscientious drill, trying to make unthinkable humans, think!

Miss Keyes says she is very, very tired, does not know how she can get rested in one mo.

Belle Ferris Mar 17 1888

However, she did not tell me to say this to you. And will possibly reprove me, if she finds I have done so. She says she does'nt dare ask for another mo. to rest in. So while I was writing on my own business thought I'd allude to hers.

Knowing somewhat of your patience and charity I have spoken.

Am going down to the County Missionary Meeting at Shallott next week, by invitation of the ladies. When I can go to S. School, Miss Torrey is my teacher. Mrs. Wooster tells me "it pays to make haste slowly."

I am Respt. Yours,

Isabel M. Ferris.

June 12th 1888,

N. G. Clark, D. D.

Dear Friend -

There may come to your knowledge an action of mine, which in a few words, I would explain.

Last February I wrote to a Lawyer, Mr. Jas. Stevenson of San Antonio, Texas, — inquiring what chances were there for a woman's gaining a livelihood, and having opportunities, for trying to "disciple" among the Mexican population?

He replied with very strong arguments, that I should not undertake to work in this way. And he proposed apply

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ing for me. to the Pres't. Board South. As they have missions in Matamoras and Monterey. Both places in moderately high altitude.

My response was - you may make the application for admission in said Board, But feel very dubious about their receiving or about my entering.

Hob-nobbing with Southerners, after my experiences in Alabama, had not a very attractive out-look.

Several months past away, and I inferred by his silence, that the matter had been dropped. However last week was surprised by a letter from him, informing me - that he had reason to believe - I should soon receive appointment by that Board. To this I have replied - that if the N. W. Commission will employ me I shall work under it, in preferance to the So. Board.

At present there is no decision either way. This resting and writing time is good for my sould, And - "Thy will be done."

Duty will detain me here until end of August.

I am as ever
Gratefully Yours,
Isabel W. Kerr[?]

Miss Isabel Fe...

Dec. 14, 1888 — Sound Beach

Rec'd Dec. 17

Sound Beach, Ct.
Dec. 14th 1888.

N. G. Clark. D.D.
Boston, Mass.
Kind Sir,

Once you kindly asserted that you would be pleased to hear from me, at any time I chose to write. Until within the past three days, had thought never again, to impose upon so much indulgent courtesy as you have shown me. But while visiting the City Mission of New York City, thought I might sometime care, to connect myself with some just such work as this. Before however, I consider the subject deeply — decided to endeavor, to ascertain, if you

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~~that~~ in which I lost my health, in. Have felt indignant for both, And have done some audible complaining. There is no reason why a single woman should not remain in Mex. as long as the married women remain. However, because an "unmarried woman," is supposed to "care for the things that belong to the Lord". It does n't imply that "every thing that may be loaded upon her," are all Lord's cares!

Desiring for you, strength of brain and body, sufficient to stand the life of the New Year.

I am Yours Resp'tf'ly,
Isabel W. Ferris.

would again recommend me, (providing reference is made you for my credentials) as well as you did to the Rev. J. S. Jewell of New Mexico. — Which recommendation was, according to his statement, viz.

"I regard Miss H. kindly; but would rather not say much. For health reasons, she would do better to remain North." All but the middle clause, does very well, but that one is a thrust in the dark. Nevertheless, I seek neither apology nor explanation. Yet a brief assurance, as to whether I am to expect a repetition of the same, or not, — will be helpful to my diligence as a Utian worker.

Since I learned from Miss Keyes, that she was being overworked in the same position

Isabel W Ferris Dec 19 1888

Isabel Ferris
Dec 19 - 88

Sound Beach, Ct.
Dec. 19th, '88

N. G. Clark, D. D.
Boston, Mass.
Dear Dr. Clark,

Thank you for your kind, satisfactory reply to mine of the 15th inst. Wished I had written you before in regard to Mr. Jewell. He may not have the sagacity of a mission-board director, but I respect him as a gentleman. In referring to what you & Mr. Eaton said about my work in Chi'a. he used the pronoun they. Am glad to know just what credentials you gave him. His statement in regard to them, have long since been destroyed. Perish the remem-

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brance with ~~them~~ it.

By reason of a Brother's invalided condition, have been detained at home for sometime. Am now about to engage myself as invalid nurse to a woman in Jersey. As missionary, feel I am out of my sphere. It requires grace. tremendo, stupendo.

Gratefully Yours,
Isabel W. Ferris.

Hathaway, E. H.

Copy

St Helena, Gold Mine.
Las Delicias, Sonora, Mexico.
June 6, 1887.

Presb. Board of Missions
New York City.

Gentlemen:

In the present letter I desire to place before you some facts which have often, in my residence in this country, come into my mind but never with their present force.
To commence with let me say that the object of this epistle is to ask for a missionary to work on this Sonora river in this district to establish an Evangelical church here.

For six years I have resided here 40 miles below Arizpe 72 above Ures and 140 north of Hermosillo. I am well acquainted with nearly every one in a radius of 100 miles and know whereof I speak when I say that here at present is an opportunity to establish a mission post, permanently which cannot be excelled.
As usual the towns along are built in the Sonora valley at intervals of about ten or twelve miles. Between Ures and

Arizpe is one poor ignorant lazy lecherous old Catholic priest for whom except for the reverence to the name "Padre" no one can have a possible grain of respect and no one does.

The known character of this man is such and his habits of living are so vile that every one despises him at heart and talk is common among the common and higher classes about it, The churches have lost their power over a great part of the best people with whom I have talked, and I of late proposed the very thing about which I now write you.

At this mine, service for the Americans is held once a week and at this time there is considerable interest and I feel that one or two are in a hopeful state having resolved to "put off the old man" and put on Christ.

Should you wish any references as to my character I refer you to Mrs. P. A. Durant, Wellesley, Massachusetts.

At this mining camp we have at

present about 1000 people mostly natives; on the river at Banamichi there are probably about 1000 or 1500 more (4 miles) 15 miles away at Huepac 2500 more.

I believe that immediate support can be given say to the amount of $600.00 per year for a missionary of the right kind, I will guarantee to raise that amount for two years for the right kind of person, and about this I wish to give my ideas.

My experience leads me to think it essential that a young energetic well educated honest and true Mexican from the interior missions would be of far more service than any other. There is a certain prejudice against Americans which it is hard to overcome and the way for a Mexican with the right spirit would be open at once.

The evangelizing of this state has been on my heart for years and my prayer has been for this consummation. The door seems to be wide open and God as of old bids us take possession in His

name.

The recent earthquakes and a famine which has been coming on for the last three years because of the drought has been the cause of making the present a favorable time for this work to commence.

I trust this may receive your early attention and action. I am a member of the Wellesley Cong. Ch., Wellesley, Mass., but write to you as I know you are better established than almost any denomination in Mexico.

One thing more:- I know personally the authorities of the state from the Governor down and feel sure of their support and approval. Have never talked with the Governor personally about it but know he is liberal and progressive and feel sure I have '' his confidence.

Any information you ask will be given at once by

Yours truly,

[signed] E. H. Hathaway.

Mr. Hathaway
Sonora - Rec'd Aug. 1, 1887

Hermosillo, Jan 22. 1889

Rev N. G. Clark
Congregational House
Boston:

Dear Sir:

Mr Crawford has told me you were inquiring after me and my welfare. I am about to separate myself from the business of the St Helena Company to a great extent as my connection with another business 30 miles only from this city, demands my whole time. Being nearer to Hermosillo it will be possible for me to assist more in the work here.

My misfortune three weeks ago was to have a fall which dislocated my shoulder and it has been difficult for me to write much or attend to active work. The Mission work here should be pushed forward and I am willing to do all in my power to help. Our hope is that the enterprise in which we are now entering may prove lucrative enough to allow a more liberal measure of aid to rendered than has been the case in the past.

The country seems to be waking up and the government is making great reforms in Educational

and other matters. A feeling seems to be taking hold of the people against the falseness of the Catholic clergy, especially is this manifest in the Governing class.

I talked with Mr Tateum, of the San Ricardo Co near here, last Sabbath about Christian Work and he is especially earnest; we agree in the necessity of pushing on the matter of securing a good lot here and putting a church and school building on it to make a center of influence worthy of the name from which shall radiate as time prepares the way in the Providence of God other workers for other smaller towns thro' the State

Mr Crawford is a faithful and energetic Christian who is creating a favorable impression wherever he goes. No one in this State knows of this as well as I because no other person has the experience or means of judging that I have. He has started the movement for the acquiring of property at a good time and ought to have all the encouragement possible. A school to prepare native Preachers is a very important thing and should be established as soon as convenient

Very Truly Yours

E K Hathaway

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Very Truly Yours

E K Hathaway

Keyes, Miss M. E.

Unionville, Conn.
May. 1. '86.

Rev N. G. Clark.

Dear Sir: Your favor of April 29 is duly received. I am glad to receive the appointment to Parrall, Mexico. I would be most happy if I was ready to start immediately but partly owing to the uncertainty of appointment I have not in readiness suitable clothing, and do not see how it will be possible to get ready in less than three or four weeks, as I will have it all to do myself.

Very Respectfully
M. Elizabeth Keyes.

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Unionville. Conn.
May 6. '86

Rev. N. G. Clark.

Dear Sir: I am very glad that you are willing that the time before leaving for Mexico should be extended. It will be very pleasant to journey in company with others, tho' I am accus-tomed to traveling alone.

Our auxciliary Society of the Woman's Board is a small one, and the ladies who belong to it, are the same who join our church Sewing Society, and they are at present engaged with all their energies and funds toward furnishing our new church. I would not like

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to suggest their help.
Should I need to take sheets, pillow-cases &c. &c together with my own needs which I have counted up as near as I can, that I will absolutely need. I think it will take $100 -- more or less. I wish I had means of my own that I need not ask it of the Society, but I have not, neither have I friends in circumstances to help me.
I will hire some of the sewing as you suggest if none of our ladies offer to help me. I am very happy in the prospect before me.

Very Respectfully.
M. E. Keyes.

Unionville. Conn.
May 12. '86.

Rev. N. G. Clark.

Dear Sir: Your letter of May 7th with draft for one hundred dollars toward outfit was duly rec'd.

I rec'd a letter this morning from Mrs. Case written in reply to one I wrote Mrs Eaton.

I send it to you, as she advises the taking of furniture for my room. Shall I purchase here or near Mexico? I shall need advice, and direction with regard to the sending of it, &c. If I am to send it from here. She mentions books which I better have, I have marked in letter. Will you please send them to me. And oblige

Yours respectfully
M. E. Rogers.

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Miss M. E. Keyes
June 21/86.
✓

D. Clark.

Unionville. Conn.
June. 19. '86.

Mr. Langdon S. Ward.

Dear Sir:— I have just rec'd your letter, with enclosed checks for expenses to Mexico. I am surprised that I have run beyond the allowance. I tho't I was keeping back enough so there would be something left— there was quite a list for Mrs. Case, I hope these were kept separate. I have a bill here of $5.00 which I purchased for her to-day and many articles to take her, sent by a friend I will do as you direct me about the money, and send your letter to Rev S. J. Humphrey and also add my Buffalo address.

(over)

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stay in Buffalo
till Friday June 25, certainly,
(I have not yet learned how
long or how many days from
Buffalo to Kansas City.)
My address will be
18. Arlington Place
Buffalo.
N.Y.

(18 Arlington Place.)

Very Respectfully.
M. Elizabeth Keyes.

M E Keyes

1886.

Mrs M. E. Keyes

Rev. N. G. Clark. D.D.

Dear Sir: I received your letter, with Mr. Wrights this P.M. I will write you what I think about it, and if you think differently I am ready to be advised, and will be glad to be. I think I better go independently of these people, as it may be difficult to arrange with them, so far away, and they may have to change their plans, somewhat to have me meet them.

I do not dread going alone I only decided to wait till then as I would be so very busy up to about the middle of June, I am at

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In case you think it better
go on by myself. I may
need some instruction what
to do at the Custom House.
Then too, I might not need
to stop at Chihuahua, but
go directly to Parral.

If I am to buy the chamber
suit myself, I will need
more funds, I had not
calculated for that, or carpet,
curtains &c. I should think
I would need at least
one hundred more, No one
has offered me any money
or help about sewing, but
I know they would here,
if they were not so busy
with church. It is to be
dedicated next week.

with the books you send.
Of course they do not come
in with outfit.

I am ready to do just
what you think is best
with regard to going, and
to the buying of the furniture.
Of course your experience
in sending workers out must
make you the wiser judge.
I have no one who can counsel
or advise me—

Very Respectfully.
M. E. Keyes.

Parral. Mexico.
Oct 11. '86.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D.
Rec'd Oct 18.

Dear Friend: I have been thinking for sometime of writing to you, but have put it off, till the school-room is ready, that I might tell you about that. This life-mem. blank came yesterday, just in time for me to send it with this letter.

I think I am to have the pleasantest school-room in Mexico, and the best furniture. Mr. Case, with the help of a carpenter has made all the desks, recitation seats, table and blackboard, everything but chairs, and as my own

are becoming enlightened. Although the priests have notices up in the churches warning the people against us. I have scarcely been out since I have been here, as ladies seldom go out alone, here. But when Mr. & Mrs. Case are riding stones are thrown at them, and they almost dread going out.

In a letter to Miss Ferris while I was in Chihuahua, you mentioned having heard, that I reached C. quite exhausted, from not spending enough for meals, I was quite mortified that such a report should have gone to you. It was true that I was exhausted, but it was from the extreme heat, and long journey, for I had sufficient food.

I have a very pleasant room here, and my furniture came all right. One box of goods has not yet come, hope it will soon. I enclose life mem. blanks, which I have filled out. There was nothing I thought worthy of note about Jamie or myself. Greetings to friends I met while in Boston.

Respectfully
M. E. Ke[illegible]

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till others can be provided. The room is well lighted, and airy, and in the second story where we will be away from intruders. I have been having two pupils come to my room since I have been here, and am teaching them Arithmetic reading, Spelling, and a little English. We will very soon open the school. Mr. Case thinks there will be about twenty to begin with.—

I am very glad that it was arranged that I should come to Parral. I like it so much here, and the work is most interesting, I long to, and hope soon to have a good command of the language

the two months in Chihuahua very much, with Miss Ferris, & Mr. & Mrs. Wright. Mr. & Mrs. Crawford I came here the first of Oct. as it was arranged I should. This city is not as Americanised as Chihuahua, nothing to remind us that we are on the same Continent with the U. S. except the heavens, in the evening I am aware that I am looking at the same stars as if at home, On the summits of the highest mountains which surround the city, are crosses erected, there are three I can see from my window. These too, are reminders that I am in a land of darkness, but I hope some of the people

Rec'd Feb. 24.

Chihuahua
Feb. 18. '88.

Rev. N. G. Clark:

Dear Sir: Your letter of Feb 6. was duly received, as also the one of last Sept. At that time I was more than busy, as Mr. & Mrs. Case were sick, also the sister of Mrs. Case who died; and at the same time I was very anxious for a sister who was very ill at home, and who died about the time I came here, Neither was I well for sometime after I returned to Chihuahua, although I took up the school work immediatety.–

My coming here in Miss Ferris place, and giving up my

on the Mexicans, as I make no calls on the Americans with the exception of one family– where I have called twice.–

I thought I was fulfilling the end for which I was sent in devoting much time to the children, and it certainly is my desire to do what is for the best good of the Mission. In the South my whole time was devoted to Special Missionary work. I had no teaching–

I write many letters to different Missionary Societies as they ask me to. having given up all my correspondants except to my sisters.

I do not think I have written just what I intended to when I began, but it will give you some idea how I spend the time. I would like to have you tell me if you are

not pleased with the way I am spending the time. I enjoy the work, and hope to be able to do more & more as it opens before me.

Very Respectfully
M. E. [illegible]

that it was some time before I could feel perfectly reconciled. Although these pupils do not yet seem the same to me, yet I love them very much —

I find teaching in the Spanish language is much more tiresome than in the English. I commenced at once, after I went to Parral, after having had but twelve lessons, and of course knew but little, could understand more than I could speak, Even now I find it difficult to express all I wish to say in the school-room.

I spend five hours every day in teaching, Mondays & Thursdays an hour extra, in sewing, also Fridays an hour extra in a bible lesson & prayer with the girls —

Missionary Meeting or temperance I drill the children in exercises for them. — The Americans are not in the school now; but it does not mean less work, as the Mexican assistant was also given up, and I do all the teaching, and am very busy. I am very glad to go out among the people although tired and weary after the confinement of so many hours, in the school-room — As yet, here, in Chihuahua, we have no pupils in the school other than of the families connected with the church — While in Parral I had several; though I think they are not in the school now. What calls I make are wholly

Chihuahua Mexico.
July. 21. '88.

Rev. N. G. Clark.

Dear Sir: Your kind letter was received some months past. I closed school the last day of May, for vacation through June, As I was very tired, and extremely nervous from the long confinement in the school-room, especially through the heat of May; I felt a change was necessary. I went to El Paso, staid three weeks, and returned feeling no better. On the return of Mr. & Mrs. Eaton I learned they had planned to have me go to housekeeping in the house made vacant by the Wrights removal; and be ready to receive boarding pupils, when there are any to come. I said that housekeeping with school teaching was more than

I felt able to undertake just now, as the heat of this summer has been more wearing on me than that of the two previous. It was cooler in Parral than here. I have been here trying to teach, and keep house, two weeks, I have with me, one of the old women of the church, who has neither home or friends, but is of very little help to me in the work. I think she will do very well to cook for the girls when they come, In the meantime I hope to find a place near, where I can at least take my dinners. I regret to write, that unless I am better than I have been the past three months, it will not be best for me, or the school, or the work in general, for me to continue. I hope I may be better, but there is a long time yet before cool weather.

Very Respectfully.

M. Elizabeth Keyes.

Chihuahua Feb. 21. '89.

Rev. N. G. Clark.

Dear Sir: Your letter of Jan. 29. was duly rec'd. I wish you to know how deeply I regret if I must leave the work in Mexico. When I wrote you last summer I was ill; too ill to teach, but I did every day, and have kept on till now, and am better, but have said that I could not, alone, undertake the school, and entire care of the boarding department. At one of the meetings of the Conference. I was asked, If I would do so, and I replied I would with an assistant. American or Mexican. But as it was said that the teacher must do both, and Mrs. Eaton said there had been some correspondence about a Miss Dunning who she thought could come immediately. I suggested that she be sent for, and that I go home for the summer, with the understanding that I be permitted to return in the fall, to some place in the work. It was after this that Mrs. Eaton said she

Chihuahua, July 21, 1888.
Rec'd July 30

would open the boarding department. I was very happy and contented in my work in Parral, and did not leave there willingly, but yielded to the urgent request of this Mission. I knew of course this was to be a boarding school, but I was told when that department was opened, there would be a matron and teacher. I might have kept on indefinitely in the Parral work, as I do not attribute my suffering last summer, to climate, or change of living. I shall be very sorry if I cannot return after a rest this summer. My friends have not the slightest idea that I must leave, neither can I mention it to them, or speak of it here.

Respectfully.

M. E. Keyes.

(P.S.) It will probably be best for me to leave the first of May, as May & June are the most trying months here.

M. E. K.

Chihuahua, Feb. 22, 1889.

also visiting friends I have there. I had half rates on from Chicago when I came. Do you secure them for the Missionaries returning? I wish I could pay my own expenses home. When I expected to go home only for the summer vacation, friends promised to help me, but under the circumstances I do not feel like reminding them of it. I feel sure as you wrote, that everything will come right in the end, and result in the best good of all.

Respectfully
M. E. Keyes.

Chihuahua. Mexico.
March. 30. '89.

Rev. N. G. Clark.

Dear Sir: I was very glad to receive your letter yesterday. I felt sure from your first letter that you had been misinformed. I am sure no one could have misunderstood me, and I think all were present at the meeting that morning. Doubtless the Secretary has it recorded, as I stated it to you, in my letter. Miss Prescott who was present, generously offered at the time, to go to Hermosillo and allow me to return to my former position in Parral. But I would not

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wish her to do so, under any consideration; being a cousin of Mrs. Case it must be very pleasant for them to be together. I have only heard of a school being opened in Cosihuriachic when the work is taken up for the Indians. And in that case a new language would have to be learned. But in the fall if I am as well as I hope to be, I would like to go to Hermosillo, or any other place where it may seem best for the work. My last letter was posted to you more than a week befor Mr. Eaton said anything to me about the furniture & I replied to him, that I would like to hear from you, before anything was done about transferring it, but he said you had written to know what there was. For the moment I only tho't of a few articles, but there are more than I mentioned, also if there is no prospect of my needing them, I have others that I have bought, that I am willing to add to the list. Of course I came expecting to stay, and brought many more things than I would otherwise have done. As I wrote you before I wish to leave as soon as the first of May, and would like to go by the way of Little Rock, and from there to Buffalo, as direct as possible (the Bee Line I think it is) stopping for a while at the above mentioned places to make the journey less tiresome.

Unionville, Conn.
July. 8, '89.

Rev. N. G. Clark.

Dear Sir: You suggested in your last letter that I keep you informed of my movements. I could not write until now. I have, and feel yet too grieved. As I wrote you my health has been much better this spring, than at any time since I left home. Neither did I suffer more at any time, than most persons would have done under the circumstances, and the work I attempted to do.

I refused to take *alone*, in addition to what I was already doing, the boarding 424

to do both, and all the rest that is required of the teacher. Miss Dunning confided to me that she could not begin to do what I was then doing. It is not at all probable that she will be asked to. It is evident that she will have to have an assistant, or that Mrs. Eaton will be obliged to assist, which she never did while I was there. — I do not know what to tell people when they ask me if I am going back to Mexico. I have avoided meeting my friends, thus avoiding the subject, because I must give the true explanation

I have only told my sister, and two intimate friends, not even my father knows.

I know you do not understand it, neither can I make it clear by writing. I did not, neither have I resigned. Must I consider myself dismissed, from the service of the A. B. C. F. M.?

I have had an offer (unsolicited) to take charge of the school in Chihuahua, under the Southern Methodists. If I can not look forward to any position under our own Board, then I shall think it best to accept this.

Very respectfully
M. Elizabeth Keyes.

Prescott, Miss. Nellie M.

Parral. Mexico. Jan. 25/88.

Dr. N. G. Clark.
Congl House, Boston.
Dear Dr.

Your letter was received some three months ago. I have been thinking perhaps you would like to know how our school commenced after the holiday vacation. The children are quite different here from those at home about being prompt and ready for any coming event. It is not characteristic of the people so I try to be patient. The school which commenced very small has increased to twenty three. there will be a few more soon. We have not succeeded in reaching any outside of our own church families yet.

The Romanists do not seem tempted here as in some other places. We have sent two girls to the boarding school in Chihuahua. We are sure the school will be a success under the care of Mrs. Eaton. We only fear the work will be too much for her. I attended the Annual Meeting in Chi- in Dec. I have seen all the missionaries now and know much more about the work and needs in different parts. The change of teachers is a misfortune as the study of the language takes precious time here. The school being so small I have time for one lesson a week having succeeded in getting a teacher for a short time. Mr. Case and family are in Los Cuevas for a week. I get along nicely alone.

Sincerely Yours.
Nellie Prescott

Parral, Jan. 25. 1889
Rec'd Feb. 2.

Parral. Mexico, June 15/88.

Dr. N. G. Clark.

Cong'l House 1 Somerset St.

Boston.

Dear Friend.

Your letter was received some time ago. I was thankful myself that my expenses could be so light. I have all I need for my happiness. I am in the school an hour and half now, and hope very soon to take more time there. I get a lesson myself every day and with a music scholar and three reading English and the work in school I keep busy. If I were not busy here it would not be as pleasant as it is here. The climate is

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most healthful here, the rains which commence soon will improve the country round about. I am learning the language quite rapidly now as I hear nothing but the Spanish. While Mr. Case and family are at Zaragoza I am in the family of the native teacher. She is doing well in the school and is working hard with music and English to go to the states next year. We hope she will not be disappointed as she will be of such great help when she returns.

Very Sincerely Yours,

Nellie Prescott.

Parral. Mexico. Aug. 24 1888

Dr. N. G. Clark.

Cong'l House 1 Somerset St.

Boston.

Dear Secretary.

Your letter was received some weeks ago. I think I am becoming acclimated much easier than most who come here. The warm weather has not been trying in the least to me, not nearly as much so as at home during the summer. The high altitude more than makes up for the difference in latitude. The house in which we live is cool and it is never necessary that I go into the hot sun. We have not had the usual rains for this season and the people have been predicting famine and high prices the coming winter on account of the failure in crops. Today we are having a good rain which will do more good than can be estimated. Our school is progressing finely. You will see something more regarding it in the Kansas Telephone of August which, I think you will receive. A young lady from Zaragoza, who with her family has done Christian work there, is here now having some normal training from Mrs. Case and myself, hoping to be able to commence a school in Zaragoza. I do not find so much time for study as at first, but the practice I have is probably as helpful in learning the language. Mr. and Mrs. Case are

Parral, Aug. 15. 1888 / 252 / 1888

quite well but the children are not. We hope they will be better now that the rain is purifying the air. There is much work to be done in Mexico and I am thankful I can have a part in it.

Yours most sincerely.
Nellie Prescott.

Rec'd Sept. 1st.

Parral. Mexico April 27/89.

r. N. G. Clark.
Boston
Dear Dr.
r kind letter was received some time ago.
one need feel the least fear for my safety
one here. There are those whom we trust as
would those of our own country.
he mission Station has given its consent
let me close school here for three months
nd go to Los Cuevos for that period of time
here the need of a school seems so much
reater. The change will answer for vacation
d I hope to do some good. The girls have
o advantages for school and there are so
many who are anxious to learn. The people
much pleased there. but here they are wishing
me one to take the school during my absence.
have dicided it is best to close entirely.
ope when I come back there will be some
ho will have a desire to study more and
l return with me. When Mr. Case starts
th I shall wish to come back here.
Mrs. Case started yesterday. Mr. Case has gone
far a Chihuahua with her, he will be gone
bout a week.

Yours Sincerely,
Nellie Prescott.

Parral. Mexico. Aug. 23. 1889
Rec'd Aug. 31

Parral. Mexico.
Aug. 23/89.

Dr. N. G. Clark.
Dear Friend.
Your letter was rec'd while I was in Las Cuevas I enjoyed the stay of seven weeks there very much. Should have stayed longer if Mr. Case had not gone north. We thought it best that some one be here in the house. Our regular services are kept up in the absence of Mr. Case. The brethren are all so ready to do their share. Mr. Case writes a letter every week, which adds much

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to the interest. I am thank-
ful to be here to do a
little toward "holding the
fort" while they are gone.
I am sure they will arouse
much interest in our work,
in the places which they
visit.

My school seems small,
but with three girls in
the house to look after and
so many outside duties
I do not get lonely.
Constant employment in
our work makes time fly.

When we read the accounts
of the progress and growth
of the Catholics in our own
Country we pray that God
spare it from this great
curse- the ignorance of
all that is good. Sincerely.

Nellie Prescott.

Wright, Rev. Alfred C.

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Portland, Oregon, March 24th 1882

Dr. N. G. Clark,

Sec. A. B. C. F. M. – Boston. Mass.

Dear Sir — In a recent letter from my sister, Miss Mary P. Wright, she mentioned the need of medical missionaries in that field, and suggested that I write to you in reference to taking a course of study in a medical school with that end in view. I have always had a desire to study medicine, to learn to heal bodies, but of late that desire has been exceeded by the desire to heal souls. Since Mary left home my plans for the future have been much changed. At that time I was intending to enter some Theological Seminary in September (last). But by overstudy in College and continuous school teaching, my health, before uncommonly robust, had been impaired so that a competent doctor told me that if I valued happiness ~~either of mind or body~~ and health for the

rest of my life, I must give up all hope of studying or teaching for at least two years. Still wishing to do as much good in the world as possible, ~~and~~ last December, I began my present wor[k] as Missionary of the American Sunday-Sch[ool] Union for the State of Oregon. This is a gra[nd] work and the field a very needy one. Th[e] training is just what I need, and I am having good success. The Lord seems to prosper my work and it seems to be in accordance with His will that I should work here for a time. Still I am not satisfied, even in this work, without the advantage of a theological course. If the way opens in that direction, I should be glad to substitute for that a medical cou[rse] if I could then enter the missionary wo[rk] but on account of the extra expense in that course, I had about given it [up]. I should hardly be able to bear the expense of a regular medical course. I shall be older than many, also, before

I can begin either a medical or theological study, as I probably should not wish to begin before a year from next fall, (I am almost 24 years of age now) I write to you partly for advice, partly for information in regard to the expense of a medical course, and whether it could be lightened any by the end in view. It would be a pleasure, indeed, to see my sister once more and feel that we are united in the same work.

Respectfully yours

A. C. Wright.

Missy. Am. S. S. Union.

Portland, Oregon.

must join with Mary in urging speedy action in this matter. Please dont keep the poor girl longer in suspense! She has suffered enough.

A.C.W.

Chicago Theo. Sem. 1/4 - 1884.

Rec'd Jan. 7.

Rev. N. G. Clark. D.D.

Dear Sir. The enclosed papers need no explanation. My sister wished me to see them and so sent them to me requesting that they be forwarded to you. I have known from the tone of her letters to me that for more than a year she has been greatly distressed, but this is the first word of complaint against any person which she has written. But although slow to complain you may rest assured that her decision to withdraw from that position is final. She never threatens for the sake of effect.

I cannot express my sorrow in learning of the condition of 131

their wisdom in their decisions
and ~~that~~ Mary, that sorely tried but
blessed girl, may have a work in which
she ~~can have~~ may in peace of mind show
forth ~~the~~ depth of her love for her
Master. But especially do I hope
~~that~~ the true cause of her resignation
may be fully understood though not
necessarily blazed the world around!
– ~~that~~ nothing more which verges toward
deception may seem to be sanctioned
by the Board –

I cannot wonder ~~that~~ Mary's brain is
affected. I cannot wonder either
~~that~~, while still expressing the
hope ~~that~~ I should sometime
enter the Foreign work, she should
add, "I do not want you to be
one (a Missy.) in Turkey"!
But I can hope & pray ~~that~~

[illegible] is [illegible].

Is it too much to ask ~~that~~ you drop me a line telling of the action of the Com. in regard to this as soon as taken? Of course, if desired, I will consider it as confidential until definite arrangements are made.

Respectfully yours.
A. B. Wright.

P.S. I shall have a list of fifteen or twenty new names to send Mr. Hutchins the first of next week. It has been so bitterly cold & I have had such a sore throat that I have been hindered in canvassing. A.B.W.

One thing more. I feel that I

she may ~~still~~ yet find

Chicago, Jan 21 - 1884

Rev. N. G. Clark. D.D.
Boston Mass.
Dear Sir -
I would thank you for your kind letter telling of the action of Com. on my sister's resignation.
In regard to my own field of labor it is, of course, too early to decide. It is not certain that I shall be thought fit for the foreign field, and all I can now say is that I am willing & anxious to go where the Lord can make the best use of me. The article "Sustain & Enlarge" I had already shown in the Herald to some of our class & am glad to have more copies to distribute. Yes. there are first class men in our class who are ready 432

One of our best men, ...
says that the question had never come to him as a personal one before, but he told me that he is considering it seriously now & is ready to go if the Lord points that way. Perhaps the best linguist in the class & whose scholarship in all studies is highest, Mr. Dunn thinks favorably of this work & it seems to me would be especially useful in translation although well fitted for any phase of the work needed. Others are thinking but these I hope will go. Still we cannot tell beforehand what the Lord has in store for us

Respectfully Yours -

A. C. Wright.

[illegible]

of the actions of the Board [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] all expenses [illegible]

[illegible]

she may ~~[illegible]~~ yet find
peace & joy in Christ's
... Sunday -

Big Springs May 16 - 1884
Rec'd May 22

sent Manuel ✓

Big Springs. Wis.
May 16th 1884

Rev. N. G. Clark. D.D.
Boston Mass.

Dear Brother.

I once had one of the books of instructions given by the board to their Missionaries or to those thinking of entering the foreign field, but in my moving from place to place I have lost it. Can you send me another. I have been asked several times concerning points which were explained in that but which I did not remember. I am finding out that there is plenty of work in our own land, but that certainly does not lessen the call from other lands.

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tells me, at the South Pole.
I think I am ready to go.
I wish, however, that the question could be settled before
I go further in my Theological
course for it would make
considerable difference in my
plans in more ways than
one. Still I find that there
is a great deal of waiting to
be done in this world & that
it is a pretty good discipline.
I am preaching at three or four
points in this vicinity for
the summer.

Respectfully yours
A. C. Wright.

el

)

d ~

r

[illegible]

Malta, Ill.
July 29th 1885

Rev. N. G. Clark D.D.
Boston. Mass.

Dear Brother.

I am informed by Dr. Alden that my correspondence on missionary matters hereafter will be with you. I wish to learn more about the Northern Mexico Mission. Can you direct me to sources of information? I would like to know the manner of working there, the work already done & the prospect for the future. Are any other denominations at work in Chihuahua?

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I would like to have a copy of the annual report of the A.B.C.F.M. of last year. Can they still be obtained?

Was the death of Mr. Sutton known to the Prudential Com. at the time of my appointment, or was there especial need of help before, so that now they will need another helper?

Would it be advisable to try to do any thing at the language before we reach the field?

I wish that I could attend the meeting of the Board at Boston, but I presume that it will be impracticable. I shall probably close my work here soon after the Sem. term opens. (Sept 9th)

Respectfully yours,
A. W. Wright.

Chihuahua Mexico
Jan 15th 1886

Rev. N. G. Clark. D.D.
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir.

Your favor of Jan 7th is at hand, and also the circular letter of Dec 27th. Upon learning that you were once more in the office I decided to write at once, but an unusual press of work prevented. You are the only one of the Secretaries with whom I feel at all acquainted, as all my correspondence has been with you.

In regard to our work, it is progressing satisfactorily, I think, and we are happy in it. On the first of December the day-school was divided into a Boy's Department & a Girl's Department, because it had outgrown the room & seating capacity, & it was divided on the sex line because of the universal custom in this country, & the predjudice against a mixed school. But this, I presume, has been reported by Mr. Eaton.— Since that time I have

I will also inquire if he would recommend

had charge of the Boys' Department, taking all my time from 9. A.M. until 4 P.M. = I have had a Mexican assistant who has taken most of the classes in Spanish, with some directions from me.

About the middle of December Mr. Eaton was siezed with rheumatism, and without any warning, the duty of leading the weekly prayer-meeting for the first time fell upon me - With the help of the brethren, & the blessing of God, it was easier than I had thought. For about two months, now, I have had a class of three boys in the Mexican S. S. & during Mr. Eaton's absence in El Paso I conducted the Mex S. S. & the evening service, making it a Bible Reading, & one other Prayer-Meeting; but my first real effort in addressing the people in Spanish was upon Christmas Eve, at a special service. The children had songs & recitations & the older ones a Bible Service upon the subject, "God's gift to the world, & how we

should use it". For this occasion I prepared an essay of about ten minutes length, my first Spanish composition for the public. Since that time, however, I have written a sermon to use during Mr. Eaton's absence in Parral, at the organization of a church there, which will take place a week from tomorrow i.e. Jan 23.

The week of prayer was a success although it was pretty hard work for Mr. Eaton. This week he is troubled again with rheumatism, but hopes to be able to preach tomorrow night.

From the above you will see that we are getting hold of the language a little, & you will excuse the constant recurrence of the pronoun "I" as it is meant only as a report of work.

The work in general advances. We have hired a room in another part of the city, near bridge on the way to the depot, for services. Padierna, the native helper in the region west toward the Sierras reports a band of believers, seventy he says, anxious for the word, for a school, & preparing to build a chapel themselves. We trust this is not exaggerated.

Yours Truly A. C. Wright.

A C Wright - Feb. [illegible]

Jan. 13. '87

Jan. 22.

a new station as soon as prac-
ticable? I have not been informed
in regard to salary yet, but of
course that will come in time.
Miss Olds will be in the city for
a day or so next week & we shall
want to talk over this outfit matter
a little more intelligently than
has been possible yet.
I wrote to Mr. Eaton last December
asking about the work & the prep-
aration necessary but have
rec'd no reply.

Respectfully Yours,
A. C. Wright.

Mr. Wright

45 Warren Av. Chicago
Feb. 11th 1886

Rev N. G. Clark D.D.
Boston Mass.

Dear Brother

I have thought of writing to you for information on various points several times this winter but have put it off thinking that it might seem like asking before there was any need. But now the end of the Seminary year is drawing near & I wish to plan more definitely for the future. Sec Smith's visit has been very useful to us all & I have learned from him some of the things I wished to know, but there are some still to be settled.

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I wish to start to Mexico as soon after graduating as is practicable, & can begin some of the preparation now. I had thought of being married & doing what visiting is necessary before being ordained, making up our outfit, & then going to Kansas, & being ordained at Brookville, my father's home, & after a few weeks rest of going right on to Chihuahua. Is that advisable? Will it be necessary for us to go to Boston? Of course we would like to, but it will be so much expense. While speaking of expense, if we make up our outfit here will this be considered our starting point, & will expenses be paid from here, though we stop & visit in Kan. & other places on the way?

Will there be any way of securing a reduction in rates on the Rail-roads? Miss Olde has relatives in Minneapolis, Minn. whom we would like to visit if practicable, & the expense will go far to settle that question. In regard to our outfit how shall I manage? I may be able to purchase things now which we will need. I suppose that it will be allowable to do so & include in the outfit will it not? Shall I keep an itemized account of the outfit? You see I need a great deal of instruction on all these little points. I have taken it for granted that I am to go to Chihuahua. Is that correct? Will the plan be to work there permanently, or to open

A. C. Wright

45 Warren Ave. Chicago Ill
Feb 23rd 1886

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D.
Boston Mass.

Dear Sir.

Your favor of Feb 15th
is at hand, with its enclosure
of draft for $100.00. I have also
received, since writing to you, a
very cordial letter from Mr
Eaton. He says that they are
expecting a Miss Ferris to come
to their aid next month. I
have inquired of Dr. Humphrey
but he knows nothing of her.
I will also inquire at the

I wish to start to Mexico as
soon after graduating as is

A. G. Wright

[illegible] of the W. B. M. I. when
I have an opportunity. If she
is to pass through Chicago I
should be very glad to meet
her.

Respectfully Yours.
A. C. Wright.

A C Wright Feb 23 1886

rooms of the W.B.M.I. when
I have an opportunity. If she
through Chicago I
meet

Chicago. April 24th 1886

Rev. N. G. Clark. D.D.

Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir.

Dr. Noble told me that you spent a few hours in this city on your return from Chihuahua. I would have enjoyed seeing you very much. How do you find the prospects there? Did Mr. Eaton say any thing about the advisability of our purchasing a considerable part of our outfit there, instead of paying freight and duty from here? He wrote that he would recommend

Chicago, 5/13, 1886.
Chicago, May 13, 1886.
Rec'd May 17.

more for such things as could be obtained there, which would be less than the freight & duty on them. Is there any special arrangement by which organs (Mason & Hamlin, Burdett, or Estey) can be had at any lower rates in Boston than here? We shall probably buy an organ, but dont know whether we can get any better rates from the manufacturer's than through their agents here or not.

Respectfully Yours
A. P. Wright.
#45 Warren Ave.

rooms of the W.B.M.I. when
I have an opportunity. If she
is to pass through Chicago I
should be very glad to meet

Chicago, May 13, 1886.
Rec'd May 17.

Chicago, 5/13, 1886

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D.
Boston - Mass.

Dear Sir -

Your favor of the 10th is at hand. I am rejoiced to hear of another helper for our Northern Mexico mission - and also to know that we shall have an opportunity to become a little acquainted on the way to our field -

We have just returned from Clinton, Wis. It was only I who went, but Mrs. Wright returned with me, and now we are busy getting together our outfit.

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You speak of Miss Keyes' going with us, which will be very pleasant, but shall hardly be able to meet even at Kansas City, but a little farther on the line. Let me give you my plans.

On June 9th I am to be examined for ordination at Topeka Kan. Then I wish to spend a couple of weeks with father at Brookville, Kans., and then go to Larned Kan. to visit my brother for a few days. That place is on the direct line of the A. T. & Santa Fe, and we can join Miss Keyes there and go together the rest of the way.

If you choose, you can forward this letter to Miss Keyes, so that she may

know our plans more definitely, and in due time we can fix definitely upon the day and train we will take. We are anxious to be in Chihuahua by the first sabbath in July, as Mr. Eaton writes that they expect to have additions to their church at that time.

I will go with Dr. Humphrey tomorrow to see if we can get the reduction in rates over that road —

Respectfully yours.
C. C. Wright.
45. Warren Ave.

expenses. I shall probably need more at El Paso to settle imports duties &c. or perhaps before. It will be more convenient in two drafts of $50.00 each.

Mrs. Wright will enclose a note to Miss Keyes in regard to the Chamber set, which you are at liberty to read and will favor us by forwarding.

Respectfully Yours.

A. C. Wright.

May 17 '86 A. A. Wright

May 17. 1886.

Chicago, 5/17, 1886

Rev. N. G. Clark D.D.
Boston Mass.

Dear Sir –

Yours of the 15th is at hand. In regard to my post office address I will give it as near as I can. From May 22d to 26th. Whitewater, Wis. From May 26th to 31st. Garner, Iowa. From June 1st to 5th 1930 Clinton Ave. Minneapolis, Minn. Thereafter address Brookville, Kan. until about the last week of June when we will start for Mexico.

As I wrote last week we shall not be in Chicago again, and we hope to get away on Wed. P.M. going to Clinton for

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a couple of days, then to
Whitewater. This will make
it impossible for me to do
much in regard to Miss Keyes'
freight. But for your letter
today I should have forwarded
my freight tomorrow or the
next day. According to Mr.
Eaton's directions I am marking
it in care of Camargo, Chi-
chester & Co. El Paso, Texas.
Via A. T. & S.t F. R.R. who
will attend to the custom house
business. I do not now
see how our freight can
be forwarded together before
it reaches that point. I can
order this firm to hold them
until both lots come but it
certainly will not pay to
send from Boston here and
then bill again to El Paso.

However, I will leave my goods here in the care of Mr. Horace Houlding (whom you will remember as under appointment of the A.B.C.F.M.) who will hold them until he hears from you (or me) in regard to them. If there is no need of keeping them here longer I wish you would notify him to forward them as soon as possible. I have little idea of what the freight on them will cost, but ~~am told~~ learn from the Co. that they charge $3.20 per 100 from Chicago to El Paso. I will leave money with him to start them. I shall have to ask you to request Mr. Ward to forward $100.00 to apply on freight and travelling

May 24 1886.

Whitewater, Wis. 5/24, 1886

Rev. N. G. Clark D.D.

Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir.

Your favor of the 20th is received with the enclosed drafts for $150.00. I am glad that the goods may now go on directly for we would like to have them reach Chihuahua as soon as is practicable.

I will enclose a half-fare permit for Miss Keyes which I procured while in Chicago. She will have to sign it before it is used.

Respectfully yours.

A. C. Wright.

sure the Lord will teach
us, & will keep us in His
way. We met severa[l]
persons in Topeka who
had been in Chihuahu[a]
& gained much informa[tion]
from them.

Shall be glad to hear
from Miss Keyes as soon
as practicable.

Respectfully Yours
A. C. Wright.

P.S. I send to Mr. Ward
today report of expenses.
& request for more money
A. C. W.

Mr. A. C. Wright,

Brookville, Kan.
6/11 — 1886
Rec'd June 14.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D.
Boston Mass.

Dear Brother—

We have arrived safely at this place which will be about our last stopping place before the final start to Mexico. The ordination exercises passed off pleasantly at Topeka June 6th.

We have been expecting to have some word direct from Miss Keyes, but it has not come yet, and so I will write once more to you, asking you to forward

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the plan we propose to her. We now plan to leave Brookville on Thurs. June 24th to go to Larned, Kan. (which is on the direct line, A.T.&S.F., to El Paso) to stay over Sabbath with my brother. Then to start on for El Paso on Monday night, June 28th, at 11.16 P.M. (the train leaving Kan. City at 10.40 A.M.) or on Tues. night, June 29th, at the same time, leaving Miss Keyes to say which will be most convenient for her. I thought it would be best to start early in the week and thus avoid the necessity of staying over Sunday in El Paso if there should be any delay. If this should not be convenient

we would like to know, and to have definite suggestions as to the day as soon as possible. Miss Keys can secure berths in the sleeper for both at Kan. City, or I can do it from Larned by telegraph though I thought it might save some confusion if she should select & hold them.

It is a great sorrow as well as disappointment to us to hear of Mr. & Mrs. Eaton's ill-health and their necessary absence from the mission for a time. We were expecting to lean heavy upon them for advice for a time, but I am

Brookville, Kan, 6/18 - 1886

Mr. Langdon S. Ward -

Treas. A. B. C. F. M. - Boston -

Dear Sir -

Your favor of the 14th rec'd - with its enclosure of $319.35 in five drafts. I have rec'd before as you write, $450, but the last $150. I requested to apply on Travel. Expenses and Freight, wishing to have the remainder of the allowance for outfit to expend in Chihuahua. According to Mr. Eaton's advice, I have left all the furniture and heavy articles to be purchased there, on account of the heavy duty. He wrote that they could be obtained there but would cost about twice as much as much as here, but that it would

be cheaper than paying the duty o[n]
them. He said that he would writ[e]
advising that the Prud. Com. grant
an addition of 100 % on that part
of outfit bought in Mexico in
consideration of the saving on
freight and duties.

We expect to leave Brook[ville]
June 24th after which date pl[ease]
direct to Chihuahua.

Respectfully Yours.
A. C. Wright.

Brookville, June 17 86.

Rev. A. C. Wright
June 21/86
Ansd.

Chihuahua, Mexico.
July 2d. 1886.

Rev. N. G. Clark. D.D.
Boston. Mass.

Dear Brother.

At last we are in Chihuahua. The we consists of Miss Keyes, my wife & myself and this morning's train brought us safely from El Paso, where we spent the day in attending to freight. The journey was as pleasant as could be expected at this season of the year, and though Miss Keyes found it a long, hot, trip, we trust that a few days of this fresh air and cool temperature when compared with that El Paso oven, will refresh us enough to begin work. Mr. Eaton looks as though a rest would do him good. Miss Ferris is working hard enough for two & seems to have vitality enough to stand it.

Respectfully yours — A. C. Wright.

A. C. Wright
July 23 Chihuahua

Mrs Annie Olds Wright
Chihuahua

Chihuahua, Mexico,
August 26, 1886.

Dr. N. G. Clark,
Boston, Mass.,
Dear Sir,

We have been pleased to receive the cheery messages from you, both in the letters sent directly to us, and in those to Miss Ferris. It is a pleasure to us to be assured that you are interested in the personal welfare of your missionaries. We feel that we have hardly earned the right to be called missionaries yet, but we are longing to do so, and to be of service to this people. In the women's meetings, they pray that our "tongues may be loosed". 444

the end from the beginning.

Cordial welcomes have been extended to us by all the members of the mission, and the native people have also given us graceful greetings, expressing pleasure that we have left our homes to come and help them. all of which has been cheering to us.

It has been a help to all having Mr. and Mrs. Crawford here, and I have been glad of the opportunity of becoming acquainted with her, and of learning of her.

We shall miss Miss Keyes, when she goes to Parral, as she plans to do next week. She desires me to say that she will write you soon from there.

Respectfully yours,
Annie Olds Wright.

and a very fit prayer it is. We are trying to do our part toward answering it by taking three Spanish lessons a week, and studying what we can. I have not been in a condition to apply myself closely to study, in consequence of the continued hot and dry weather, and the fact that it ~~has~~ seemed necessary for me to become acclimated even before learning the language.

Mrs. Crawford assures us that the first year is the most trying, in all respects, and we are glad that it is so — glad that the hardest comes first, that we may expect brighter days afterward.

We have been very comfortable here in Mr. Eaton's house, where it is comparatively cool, and

Miss Ferris has been very kind to us. She has had many cares during the absence of Mr. and Mrs. Eaton and their return will be a relief to her. We shall then remove to our rooms in the "Plaza de Gallos", which Mr. Wright is trying to get put in order. It has been far pleasanter here during the summer than it would have been there, as those rooms are much warmer and closer. The last of our goods arrived this week, after long delays. It troubles us that the duty on them has been so high, but we could not prevent it; we hope and trust that future years may prove us to be worth what we have cost, if not to the eyes of man, at least, in the sight of Him who knoweth

Chihuahua, Mexico, Aug. 26 1886

Rev N. G. Clark D.D.

Boston, Mass.

Dear Brother.

Your letters of July 9th & 14th were received in due season. I am almost ashamed to acknowledge them at so late a date, but I assure you that they were welcome. I have hardly had time for first impressions yet. Mr. Eaton's departure within a week of our arrival left so much business on my hands to attend to that I have had little time for extras. I knew so little of how the business of the Mission was conducted, of what had been done or was to be done, in repairing the property, of whom to employ, & above all of the language of those around me, that I have often been at a loss to know what to do. The longer Mr. Eaton remains away the more these items increase

and as I begin to understand a little of the language I long more & more to fully understand. I am now fitting up the rooms which we are to occupy. I can find no one to do the work as I want it done & so am turning into Carpenter, Blacksmith, Mason, Gardener, Locksmith &c. according to the needs of each day. I shall be glad when Mr. Eaton's return takes the responsibility of the Mission Accounts off my hands. That will be quite a relief & I shall hope to put more time on the language.

I hope that what I have written does not have the air of complaint. I have no reason to complain. I like the work. I shall like the field. I like the people. I was surprised and rejoiced at the warm welcome we have received. I am pleased with the class that have been won. It seems to me just the class for a good foundation to work upon. It is not the rich, educated class; & a church made up of such would never reach the masses. It is not the poorest, most degraded class; and a church made up of such, would ~~also~~ but slowly fail to affect the Country. But it is composed of the independent, intelligent middle class, & will be able to work in both directions. It contains the elements of self-support. It will soon send out its own preachers [illegible] ~~the~~ country around. God hasten the day — Respectfully Yours, A. [illegible]

Ch[illegible] Aug. 26, 1880

Chihuahua, Mexico,
Sept 23^d 1886.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D.
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir -

Your favor of the 14th is at hand. I find but one blank enclosed, which I fill & return. Miss Keyes has been in Parral since Sept. 1st, so that a blank enclosed when writing to Mr. Case will reach her more speedily than via Chihuahua. If you will send one for Mrs. Wright, however, she will gladly fill it - Your letter of the 6th to Mrs. Wright was enjoyed by both of us. Now Mr. & Mrs. Eaton have returned & I can breathe more easily. You would be delighted to see how warm a welcome the people here have for them. There will be several additions to the church at the communion in Oct., we hope. Mr. Crawford has gone to Sonora, and expects to return for his family & goods next week. But you will undoubtedly hear from him direct.

Respectfully Yours
A. C. Wright.

Chihuahua - June 18th 1887 -

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D.

Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir -

The members of my class in the Theological Sem. have requested me to write a circular missionary letter, which they may read to their congregations, S. Ss. or Missionary Societies. I take the liberty to send you a copy, as it reports our trip to Parral and Zaragoza, and I have had no time to make a special report. Things move on smoothly during Mr. & Mrs. Eaton's absence, although I have a great deal to do. I take charge of five Spanish services a week now besides one private class, & general oversight of the school with 2½ hours recitation work a day. Miss Ferris has not been well for some time, & we have at last prevailed upon her to move down here where we can help her a little more -

Yours Truly -

A. C. Wright.

Mrs. Wright is well - She sends her regards -

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a revival of religion. I noticed that whenever I read a passage that seemed helpful to them they would hunt up another bit of paper to put in there. I noticed that these passages were scattered through the whole Bible, showing extended as well as interested study. I had other proof of this. I asked all who had questions on any part of the Bible or on points of religious belief, to present them. The first was from a fine-looking intelligent, one of the Judges of the place. He asked for the explanation of Rev. 13:18. This was not a chance question, for he knew the whole book well, & the different prophecies. His next question was in regard to Rev. 22:11 - Look at these verses & see if the fact of their being chosen does not prove something more than a mere superficial study of the Scriptures. We talked & sang about all day. In the evening we went to another house in the center of the town, in the same block with the priest's residence, & I preached to a very attentive audience of twenty persons inside the room, and as many more, crowded around the window which opened into the street, and 8 or 10 more at an inside door.

while Incarnation continued to read and explain the gospel. In the same room, which, by the way, had only one opening to the outside air, viz the door, slept two women, two children and four men.

"In the morning we were up in good season, ate breakfast, and were in the saddle at just six o'clock. After a pleasant ride of eight leagues we reached our destination at half-past ten. We were warmly welcomed by the brethren of Juan de Dios' family, and soon others began to come in. Here is the wonderful part to me. Every one of these men and women had a good substantial knowledge of the Bible, and not one of them had read it for more than eight months, most of them not more than six, and some of them only two. I noticed that their Bibles were full of little papers to mark especial passages. On examining them I found these passages to be just such as ~~you would~~ ought to be marked in every Christian's Bible.

of the gospel ever heard in Zaragoza. Let me pass over eight months & tell you of what I myself have seen on a trip just made to that place.

Monday at 2 P. M. I started from Parral, with one of the church members of that place, Incarnation by name, both on horseback, with our blankets, books, food, canteen of water, coffee pot, &c all safely strapped behind. Zaragoza is 20 leagues distant, and we rode 12 leagues by half past six that evening, following a trail over hills & plains more rough, & stony, & dry than you, in the land of verdure & richness, can imagine, but over what is here called a good road. We passed only three ranches on the way, & saw water three times. Arriving at the "hacienda" of Sapien, we were hospitably received by the man in charge. While Incarnation was making the coffee I talked with the father of the overseer as best I could, & after supper for which the 35 mile ride had given us good appetites, I read in the Testament to a group of about a dozen men women & children. I soon went to bed on a thin mattress

The next day we had gatherings for Bible study & questions both morning & afternoon & preaching in the evening as before. I made a list of the names of those who were regarded as "very firm" in their evangelical belief, those who are studying the Bible constantly, have given up the Romish ceremonials & are trusting solely in Jesus Christ for their salvation. There are seven men, two women & two girls on the list, eleven in all, some having large families "coming". There are several others who come to the meetings occasionally, & still others who are reading the Bible at home, but are not "firm" as yet. Note the work. In April a family hear the Gospel: In July they are baptized; In August they move to a town where the Gospel has never been preached: In March two missionaries spend one day with them (Mr. Eaton & Mr. Case): In May another spends two days with them, & now this little faithful band is asking for baptism & regular preaching. Where shall we find men to preach to them? Our best preachers are those who preach by their lives, & cannot help preaching. — Thus passed three days of my life, the first that I have spent without a word of English. I enjoyed it & long for more; but perhaps my chief work will be in preparing others to fill these places. Pray for us, & pray for these Mexican brethren groping after the light —

Yours Truly — A. C. Wright.

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<u>Professing Christ in Mexico</u>

We arrived in Chihuahua July 2d of last year.
On Sunday, July 4th, ten persons united with
the Church of the Holy Trinity in Chihuahua.
In this number was included the family of
Juan de Dios Loya (John of God Loya) none of whom
had heard of the Bible or had known anything
of evangelical christianity before April 1st of
the same year. Their occupation had been that
of making artificial flowers with which to
adorn the shrines, altars &c of the Catholic
Churches. This means of gaining a livelihood van-
ished when they professed their belief in Christ
Jesus as their Savior instead of the Virgin Mary,
and about August 15th they thought it best to
move to Zaragoza, a town distant 120 miles
from Chihuahua, & 40 miles from the railroad.
There they immediately began to read the
Bible to their neighbors & friends, though
there, too, it deprived them of many opportu-
nities to gain money. This was the first preaching

Mr. Wright Chihuahua
June 11 1887

Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.
Chihuahua, Mexico.
March 15 1887

Rev. N. G. Clark D.D.
Boston - Mass -

Dear Sir -

Your kind letter of Mch 15th was received today. I am glad to say that Mrs. Wright is improving, though it will take her some time to regain full strength. I am getting a little hold of the language, so as to help in the work & even to conduct the services in Mr. Eaton's absence. Still it is far from familiar yet, and it takes a long time and hard work to prepare a sermon. I am at work on my second sermon now, the first being preached when Mr. Eaton was in Parral.

Continually new faces appear at our meetings, and calls are coming from different parts of the State for information and preaching. One could be well employed in touring all the time, & then, if we only had the native ministry to put at work in these promising points, it certainly seems

as if the State could be evangelized in a few years. But the Lord will provide that which is necessary. Already we see some desiring to preach and asking for a preparation. Their own religion prepares them to a certain extent, to preach the gospel. The fundamental principles of Christianity are drilled into them in their catechism, and although we do strip off the parasites of error which are hiding from view the truth, as well as deriving their life from it, we do not remove the foundations of their faith.

In regard to Mr. Eaton's vacation — I think he will need it, though I am not sure that he is planning for it. I think also that we shall be able to keep up the work during his absence if he goes. We hope to be able to remain here during the whole summer, though we cannot yet tell whether it will be possible.

Mrs. Wright joins me in kind regards to yourself.

Respectfully Yours A. C. Wright.

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A. C. Wright.
Colegio Chihuahuense,

Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.
Chihuahua, Mexico.
July 25 1887

Chihuahua, Mar. 15, '87.
Rec'd Mar. 22.

Rev. N. G. Clark D.D.
Boston Mass.

Dear Sir. Miss Ferris has kindly shown me her letter written today to you, and I think that a few words of explanation may be necessary.

We have all noticed, with sorrow, that Miss Ferris has not been well, and that she has continually grown weaker instead of stronger. She certainly has done too much and we are very sorry that she is obliged to leave.

She has often remarked that she did not come here with the expectation of carrying on school work, & that she was not qualified for that work, which seems to me true, but she certainly is one of the most unselfish and self-denying persons I have ever met. The reason for her first sentence in regard

to the Mission is probably this. A few days since, she wrote to Mr. Eaton in Guerrero, stating the condition of her health & saying that probably she would not be able to remain another year, requesting that application be made for some one to come and take her place immediately, she volunteering kindly, to stay for her bare expenses and help the new teacher a few months, until she should have gained a little use of the language. The Mission as such, certainly has taken no action in the matter, as her letter was not a formal resignation. Her letter to you may be regarded as such I suppose, as she evidently regards it as such, although setting no definite time.

I think that you will hear from Mr. Case soon in regard to the appointment of another lady missionary for this mission. If his hopes are fulfilled, we shall be able carry on the schools without interruption with the aid of our native helpers,

Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.

Chihuahua, Mexico. 11/1, 1887

Rev N. G. Clark D. D.

Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir,

Your letter of Aug 3 - was received in due season. Miss Ferris started for home last Sat., expecting to spend the Sabbath with our little congregation at Paso del Norte. We are very sorry that she must go, but it seems more and more evident that she would be unable to carry on the work here. Miss Keyes has taken up the school work here and is getting it well in hand. Although we have not as many tuition paying pupils as at one time, still I consider the school in much better working order than at any other time since I have been here. We need a better instructor for the boys, but we do not as yet, find one among the natives, and with so much other directly evangelistic work calling all the time, it hardly seems wise for me to devote more time to these primary classes. I conduct the opening exercises of the two schools together each morning, and hear all the

Chihuahua, July 25/87.
Rec'd Aug. 1.

classes of those studying English. During Mr. Eaton's absence, as this summer, and now at Cosihuiriachic, I also prepare a sermon for Sunday, lead the S. S., help the native preacher in studying a text for his discourse at the other chapel, lead a boys' prayer-meeting during the week &c. &c.

Last Sunday we had an invitation to hold services in the house of a man recently interested, who lives in a part of the city entirely unreached so far. This may lead to the organization of another Sabbath afternoon service conducted by the brethren.

Last Saturday while passing by our property, one of the priests of this city stopped to speak to some peons engaged in repairing the walls of the building, asking them if they did not know that it was prohibited to work for the protestants! But they finished their work. A few months ago a whole band of workmen left under such an appeal. But they are becoming accostumed to us, and no longer regard us as perfect monsters. Still there are fanatics. I am told that

last week, at Santa Isabel on the Cosihuiriachic road a man was shot simply for reading the Bible, and that the priest who instigated the attack was a near relative of the murdered man. I cannot vouch for these statements but they seem probable. This man had never had any relations with us, but was a liberal. He was in the coach with me on my return from Guerrero in Sept, and appeared to be a quiet, well-informed gentleman."

Mrs. Wright is tolerably well. She now has charge of the instrumental music lessons, Mrs. Eaton coming two days in the week to give vocal lessons.

Since March 1st I have conducted fifty-one services in Spanish, thirty of them being ~~pa~~ preaching services, besides leading the S. S. during the summer, and a weekly prayer-meeting of the boys of the congregation.

To whom should I write to have my name correctly given in the lists for next year? In the Am. Board Almanac it now stands "Alden C." instead of Alfred C. and has been copied wrongly in other

places.

Mrs. Wright joins me in sending regards.

Yours truly,

A. C. Wright.

I enclose a copy of the program for our conference of this fall.

Rec'd Nov. 8

Nov. 14th 1887.

Rev. N. G. Clark. D.D.

Dear Sir,

The foregoing explains itself. By this time Miss Ferris is probably in her own home, and will be in time for the happy New England Thanksgiving gathering.

We are well and find the work continually increasing on our hands. This week I begin a night-school two evenings of the week, hoping thus to develop material which in time, with God's blessing, may furnish native preachers and colporteurs. We are anticipating a pleasant and profitable time at our annual Conference, to begin Dec. 1st.

There are grand openings for work all around us, doors are opening and calls are coming faster than we can respond. We need native helpers, and it is slow work preparing them, but are working along that line.

Respectfully Yours, A. C. Wright.

Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.

Chihuahua, Mexico.

We, the members of the Chihuahua Station of the Northern Mexico Mission of the A. B. C. F. M., wish to express our deep regret that the state of health of one of our number, Miss B. W. Ferris, requires her departure from the Mission.

We have found her peculiarly unselfish in all her acts, faithful in doing with her might all that presented itself to her as duty, and diligent in searching for new opportunities of usefulness.

For the future we do not wish that she may find less to do, but that better health may be given her with which to work, and that she may spend many years in happy service for the Master.

Prepared by request of the Station and copies sent to Miss Ferris, to the Foreign Secretary of the A. B. C. F. M., and inscribed in the minutes of the Chihuahua Station Meeting.

A. C. Wright

Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.
Chihuahua, Mex. 12/5 1887

Chihuahua, Nov. 14, 1887.
Rec'd Nov. 21.

N. G. Clark D. D.

Boston Mass.

Dear Sir.

Your favor of Nov. 11 was received in good time, with its enclosure of appropriations for the coming year. One unforseen decision may change our needs slightly, but certainly will not call for more money.

Ever since coming here, I have been impressed with the many objections and inconveniences connected with receiving American scholars in the school. I can see that it may have been necessary in beginning the school, but I am not sure that it has, on the whole, been a benefit to the school. Certainly, from a money stand-point, it is not a paying investment. During this year we have rec'd a total of $52^{50} Mex. silver in tuition from the American scholars. The total number attending has

been 10, and 7 of these paying tuition. Four of this number have removed from the city, leaving at present only three tuition paying scholars. So much only have we received. We expend on them entirely from the time of the Lady Missionary (Miss Keyes) as they cannot enter the classes of the Mexicans under the assistants, nor can the Mexicans enter their classes. Miss Keyes finds it necessary to spend 2 3/4 hours on their lessons, and one hour in general exercises in which both nationalities participate, leaving but 1 1/4 hours of the regular school time for work among the Mexicans. Without the Am. children Miss K. could take all the other lessons, and save the salary of her assistant, $20.00 a month, or $240.00 a year, more than four times the amount received for tuition this year. Or we could organize another school at one of the outstations which need schools so much, and thus have a feeder for this school. In view of these and other facts, it has seemed best to give up the American scholars, and devote ourselves to the Mexicans.

~~then~~ We have been very sorry to do this, for we know that this is the only chance for schooling for these Americans, but most of the parents knew that before coming here, and it seems too great an outlay of money and strength for the results. We are also very sorry on the Eaton's account, as it deprives Howard of all but home instruction; but it was Mr. Eaton's opinion also that we were not authorized, by the results, to expend so much of the Board's money in this way.

So then, from this time, we shall devote our energies in the school for the Mexicans. We shall receive little or no money in tuition at present, and we shall need some money for books and repairs, but this will be more than balanced by the saving of $20.00 a month in assistant's salary.

I have written quite fully on this point in order that you might understand the reasons for the change, and what it involves.

Our Annual meeting has just closed. Mr. Crawford starts back tonight, and Mr.

and Mrs. Howland expected to start tomorrow morning, but the slight illness of their little girl Bertha, will detain them for a day longer.

We are very much pleased to have this extra time for visiting. We have enjoyed their visit exceedingly. Mrs. Wright wishes me to tell you that she has gained many valuable items of instruction from Mrs Howland, in regard to ways of gaining and holding the young people, and I am sure that I have learned as much from Mr. Howland in many ways. The people have been greatly inspired by their presence, and I am sure it pays to have these delegates present. Mr. Case will remain to help conduct a training class during this week, he taking the exegetical, Mr. Eaton the pastoral, and I the homiletical instruction. We have had very full attendance at the meetings, last night over 70 communing, and about 120 attending, and the collections at S. S. and evening service amounting to $7.60, which we think very good for people so poor.

Mrs. Wright sends her regards. All of the station are well. Yours Respectfully, A. C. Wrig

Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.

Chihuahua, Mexico. Jan 7th 1888

N. G. Clark. D.D.

Boston. Mass.

Dear Sir.

Your favor of Dec. 8th enclosing blanks, was rec'd in due time, and I have taken the first time possible to fill out the statistics. Mr. Eaton and I have found it difficult to decide just what was intended under some of the columns, and for our guidance in the future, if the same blanks be sent another year, I ask the following questions. 1st. Is any thing included under "Native Agency" other than the salary of preachers and helpers in evangelistic work? 2d. Under "Asked of the Board" is it desired to have simply the difference of the two preceding columns, or the amount asked in the estimates for the year, or the amount actually appropriated to that purpose? 3d. Is the salary, or any part of it, of any missionary, or assistant missionary, to appear on this sheet? 4th. Are buildings owned by the Board, or is tax

paid on property of the Board to be reported on this paper?

In reporting the school work, I have simply taken the total expenditures, and receipts, and apportioned one-half to each school, as they are so united that it would be impossible to reckon each separately.

I should also acknowledge the receipt of your letter of Dec 13th. The schools have begun under the new regime, and while receiving a few American scholars yet, it is only those who follow their course of study in Spanish. I have a new man as helper on the boys' side, and hope that he will prove an efficient teacher, but it is somewhat of an experiment as yet. He is not as well qualified as we could wish. It is impossible to secure a well-qualified male teacher here for less than $50.00 a month, as they can gain more in the public schools, and our school is not large enough to warrant that expense as yet.

The week of prayer has been profitably spent, Mr. Eaton and I alternating in conducting services each night (except Sat. night). While there is no great awakening, there is steady and increasing growth and interest. We do not wait for the presence of the Holy Spirit; we enjoy it continually. Yours truly, A. C. Wright.

Chihuahua, Mexico, Jan. 27th 1888

N. G. Clark, D.D.

Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir.

Your favor of the 16th is at hand. After sending the report referred to, the one "in reference to grants in aid", I discovered an error. Under the head "Churches" I had Paso del Norte "Whole expense $120.00; by the people, 26.00; asked of Board $94.00". In fact a double error. The $26.00 was contributed, but applied to other purposes than rent, so that the report should stand, "Whole expense $120.00; by the people 0.0; asked of Board $120.00".

I am glad to note what you say in regard to securing good assistants in the school work, but it is a fact here that to secure a really well qualified teacher we should have to pay as much or more than the missionary families receive. The Govt school teachers are well paid, and are not all well qualified by any means.

Mr. Case started yesterday for Parral, and Mr. Eaton for Mexico. All here are well. Will write more fully another time. Will you kindly hand the enclosed note and addressed envelope to Treas. Ward?

Respectfully Yours — A. C. Wright.

Chihuahua, Mexico, Feb. 17th 1888.

Rev. N. G. Clark. D.D.

Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir

Your kind letter of Feb. 6th is just received. The school is more satisfactory now, under the teaching of a young man, a member of the M. E. South church here, but who was first interested by the Eatons, and is more than half with us now. Still I am obliged to devote a good deal of time showing him how to teach. I hope that I shall be able to organize a class of older persons later, but in the mean time we cannot afford to lose the help of younger ones whom we have had under training so far.

In Mrs. Wright's letter the question about receiving money from societies would involve a very small amount, and this would not deduct from their regular contributions to the society, nor would it be a regular contribution, to be continued in the following years. They would be from societies of young people and individuals who have inquired how

they might help especially in our work here, and some of whom would give nothing otherwise. We shall hope to have the reading-room on a firmer foundation for the coming years.

I am conducting a men's class in the study of the Geography and History of the Bible, each week now. It promises to be useful and interesting.

Undoubtedly you have heard or will soon hear from Mr. Eaton of his Mexico trip. We all rejoice in the good accomplished by the "Asamblea General".

Mr. Case reports great relief from the operation performed on his limb, and is already out touring, intending to remain some weeks at Zaragoza. I plan a trip to an unexplored part of the State for next week, taking with me a native helper. Cannot tell how long I shall be gone.

Yours respectfully.

A. C. Wright.

Chihuahua, Feb. 11, 1888,
Rec'd Feb. 24.

Chihuahua, Mexico, March 7th. 1888.

Rev. N. G. Clark D.D.

Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:

Last Friday night I returned from a week's tour to Jimenez, Atotonilco, and Rio Florido, and I now write to give a short description of this trip. Leaving the R. R. train at Jimenez, we, (a native helper and myself) spent Saturday P.M. and Sunday in that place. No regular evangelical services have ever been held here, although Mr. Eaton and Mr. Case have visited it several times, holding services, and selling Bibles and religious literature. There are a good many who have known something of evangelical christianity, respect it, and would be glad to learn more about it, but are not willing to be known by the despised name of "protestant." A list of thirteen subscribers to "El Faro", an illustrated evangelical paper, was secured, and on Sunday I held two services with an attendance of twelve at each, not counting the wife of our host, who came to the curtain door and listened attentively each time we sang. Since writing the above, I have had the report of the native helper whom I left last Friday to spend another Sabbath in

this place. He says that our visit has caused great excitement. He was insulted and threatened openly in the street, but no violence was offered. "The priest denounced us in the church, and excommunicated, not only us(!), but all those who should shelter us, listen to us, rent us horses or do any work for us. He said that we had come to buy up the people, and mentioned two families who were said to have been bought for a good price, and told his people to have nothing to do with that American, or the Mexican who went with him. Never-the-less our helper had a meeting with 16 attending, at a ranch about a league from the town. Some young ladies who had heard the priest in the morning, said they could not see what fault any one could find in such words, and cordially invited the helper to visit them whenever he could. He spent the afternoon in visiting from house to house, and was well received in most places".

But to return to our trip. On Monday we went to Atotonilco, a place never before visited by the "hated sect." There we were well received in every respect, and I consider it one of the most promising places for opening work in the state.

It is not a large place, not having a thousand inhabitants but all seem very ready to hear, and I am sure, with continued work, many would accept the gospel. Twelve subscribed for "El Faro" and considerable evangelical literature was distributed. One of the first men we met was an old pure-blood Indian who has been teaching school here over twenty-five years. When but twelve years old he was taken to a place near Portland, Maine, by a surveyor, and lived there until twenty, when he returned to this his native place, and is now surrounded by his children and grandchildren. He is a man of considerable influence and his son is mayor of the town. His recommendation to the people was of great advantage to us. In the evening he came with several of the neighbors, to talk with us. I said to him, "You have been in the U. S. long enough to know our people pretty well, have you not?" — "Oh yes", said he. "And you know a good deal about our religion also, do you not?" "Yes sir, I know it very well." — "What do you think of it?" I asked. "I like it very much. I think it much better than that which we have here," he replied.

I told him that we had come for the express purpose

of telling this people of what seems to us a much purer and better form of religion than is taught here. He was glad to see us and helped us in many ways." One man saw our paper and wished to subscribe, but did not have money enough. Later in the day he hunted us up and brought the dollar. In taking the paper he saw some other papers and books, and inquired about them. He was greatly interested in them and went off with a Bible, to search for more money to buy others that he had selected. He said that he would have them if it took the tortilla from the family for a week. About dark he returned for these books, and inquired if we had others which he had not seen. "Why yes" said I. "Here is the hymn-book. This contains a great many very beautiful songs. Would you like to hear some?" "Yes indeed." So Don Gregorio, the native helper and I sang two or three which pleased him exceedingly. "Why," said he to our host. "do you know, if it were not for my family, I would go right away with these gentlemen, and live with them, and learn all that they teach". He must have a hymnbook, and we went to his house with him to teach some of the songs to his daughter.

From this place we went to Rio Florido, a larger and prettier place, but for various reasons it did not seem best to attempt anything there at this time. It is very fanatical, and will need continued, careful work to gain a hearing there. Certainly there is hope there, and it is a good place for work, but nothing can be accomplished in a visit of one or two days. This place is nearer, and more accessible for Mr. Case from Parral than for us.

I was entertained in Mexican homes of the poorer class during all this trip, and chiefly in catholic families, friends of the helper's, for this is his native place. We traveled on horse-back, and I enjoyed the whole trip. I have always enjoyed this kind of work in spite of the many small inconveniences. I did not see a knife or fork on the table but ~~once~~ at one place, and my towel I carried with me. Water is free, but the Mexicans do not use much of it. I heard Don Gregorio explaining, one morning, as he was bringing in a supply for me. "This gentleman is an American, and these Americans wash a great deal." Our bed was on the floor, and we carried our blankets with

us.

Mr. Case writes from Zaragoza of a very encouraging condition there, and urges that Mrs. Wright and I come to spend a month with that people after the organization of a church. Probably we will arrange to spend the month of April there.

Mrs. Wright is well and sends her regards. From Sec. Ward we learn that you have been ill, but are recovering. ~~He~~ We sincerely hope that the recovery will be speedy and complete.

Respectfully yours,

A. C. Wright.

Be careful of publishing details —

M. C.

Chihuahua Jan 12 [illegible]

El Valle de Zaragoza, Mexico.
April 17th, 1888

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D.

Dear Sir.

Your letter was received in due season, but I did not have opportunity to reply before leaving Chihuahua.

April 3d we (Mrs. Wright and I) started for this place. Leaving the railroad at Santa Rosalia, we were met by two of the brethren with a light, covered wagon, and driver. One man went ahead on horseback, to explore the road, a very necessary duty, and the rest of us came in the wagon. The distance is about 60 miles, and the road a part of the way, about the roughest I have seen. The night was passed at a ranch called Ojo de Agua, eye or spring of water. It was Mrs. Wright's first experience of Mexican country life. A long room perhaps 60 ft. by 20, dirt floor, one table, a bench, a few chairs, a bed in one end, a pile of shelled corn in the other, one door and no windows, the saints on the wall and a very few dishes in a cupboard dug in the adobe wall, was placed at our disposal, figuratively speaking. In matter of fact, we were given a dried cow-skin on the floor in one corner, while

the large family occupied the other end. We arose at 3 o'clock, and pursued our journey, arriving here at 9 P.M. Meetings have been almost continual since then. Friday evening, a prayer-meeting; Sat evening, we sat down to sing a few moments after tea, and people began to gather, some entering the room, others listening attentively at the window, and we found this a very effective method of preaching the gospel. We sang until nine o'clock. Sunday we had three services, with keen interest at each, and at the evening service, an attendance of forty, among which were many new faces. Several girls, not of our congregation before, entered, and one of them walked clear up to the organ in front, in the midst of the sermon, to present some roses to Mrs. Wright.

Tues. afternoon Mrs. Wright conducted a women's meeting. Mr. Case arrived from Parral, and in the evening we began a series of meeting continuing through all the week. In these one of us would begin with a simple presentation of the Bible doctrine on some important subject, and the other would follow with a comparison of the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church and that of the Bible on the same theme.

Much interest was manifested and the attendance was good and constantly increasing. On Sunday, April 15th, a council was held in response to a letter missive sent by the brethren here, the churches of Parral and Chihuahua being represented by a delegate and missionary from each. In the afternoon, a church was organized, 13 being received on confession of faith, and three by letter, with six candidates for reception at the next communion. Among these is the 2d judge of the place, and the principal families of the town are represented, and many others are deeply interested who have not come out openly as yet.

But of all this I presume you will receive a full report from Mr. Case. Let me only illustrate the fact that while all opposition is not removed, indeed, while it is increased and we are most severely and publicly denounced in every possible way by the priest, this only serves to attract more attention to our work, and helps us by giving us new hearers. One day Mr. Case and I made an illumination, a simple frame covered with cloth, with an invitation and announcement of the services printed on the cloth, and with a candle placed

inside, this was hung over the door. The words were "Evangelical service" on one side, and "Entrance free" on the other. However, it attracted a great deal of attention, and within half an hour, a policeman came with an order that it be removed. Our audience had already been attracted, so we ~~did~~ complied with good grace. Later we were both summoned to appear before the mayor of the place. We went, glad of the opportunity to talk of our work. He expressed surprise that we had dared to put up such a notice without asking his permission first. We begged his pardon, explaining that we had done the same thing both in Parral and Chihuahua without thought of previous notice. He explained that he feared it would excite opposition, perhaps a mob, which with his small police force, he would be unable to quell. Mr. Case embraced the opportunity, as did Peter before the council, to preach a good gospel sermon to the mayor, explaining the object of our meetings. I asked him in what consisted the offense. He said that it was in the letters or words on the sign. I asked if there would be any objection to placing such a light without the words, over the door to light up the entrance. He replied that there would

be none whatever. With that we were quite content, although we knew that there was no law or objection against the full notice. But we expressed ourselves as much pleased with this result, and thanked him for this permission, and were dismissed. We took the offending letters off, put on new cloth, put up the light the next night, and it now attracts a great deal more attention than before. People ask what those words were, and why they were taken away. Sunday evening, at the communion service there were over 100 present, in the room and at the door, and all were as attentive and quiet as can be imagined."

We have found one arrangement a great advantage. There is a small room adjoining the audience room used, with a door facing the table used for a pulpit, and another with easy access from the street, this is dimly lighted, and its occupants cannot be seen by the audience at all. To this room have come every night, men, and women too, who did not care to be seen by the public attending our services as yet, but who want to hear. Sometimes it has been packedfull, and the leading and influential

men of the place take this opportunity to hear the gospel. They are always very quiet and attentive, although many of them continue their smoking at the same time. I call it the "Invalid's Room", (thanking Prof. Willcox for the name, if not for the idea), for it contains those who are weak in the faith as yet.

Mr. Case returned to Parral yesterday. and we shall remain here two sabbaths more holding only two services on the sabbath, and two or three prayermeetings during the week. We hope to rest up a little more, before returning to Chihuahua for the hard strain of the hot season. I am also starting a class for those who wish to learn to read, giving two hours a day to that.

Did you receive Mrs. Wright's letter describing the opening of the reading-room in Chihuahua?

She unites with me in kindest regards to you.

Respectfully yours,

A. C. Wright

Rec'd April 28.

Chihuahua, Mexico, May 10th 1888

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D.

Dear Sir,

Your favor of April 30th was received this A.M. and I thank you for your kind words of encouragement and counsel.

I now write in regard to another matter which has presented itself. When we came here, two years ago, it was with the intention and desire of working where-ever, and at what-ever we were most needed. On consultation with Mr. Eaton, it seemed best for us to remain here in Chihuahua, and it was understood that I should have general over-sight of the school-work, hoping that it would be possible to organize a training-class of young men preparing for the ministry, as soon as I should gain enough of the language to teach them; while Mr. Eaton should have more direct charge of the pastoral work here, and of tours to other points.

These two years have given me a sufficient command of the language to carry on work either in preaching, or in teaching; but we have thought, and you have expressed the same opinion in your letters, that it was hardly best for a

missionary to spend his whole time, or the larger part of it, in the school-room, with children of less than fifteen years, and studying only the elementary branches. As yet, we have been unable to secure the young men of the right character and consecration, to form a training class. We have older men, with families, who can help us much, and to whom each missionary can give more or less instruction, but they must spend much time gaining a living for their families, and, at best, lack the foundation of early habits of study. Still, they are very useful, in fact are indispensable in opening the way for work, and in preparing for something better.

Now the question has arisen, shall we continue in this place, waiting for an opening which has not yet come? One missionary family, with the lady teacher, can carry on the work here, as was seen last summer, when, with a very imperfect knowledge of the language, we were able to keep up the school work, and all the church services during the three months of Mr. Eaton's stay in Guerrero, and also as the Eaton's did during our visit to Zaragoza, last month. Mr. Eaton's health is so much better now, that he thinks he will be able to

stay here the greater part of the year, and the native brethren can easily superintend the services during the time that he may be absent.

There is great need of holding the principal points of this state now, while we can. The M. E. South Church is now here, and have already begun work in the place of second importance on the R.R., and will soon be in Jiminez, cutting off our connecting point with Parral, unless we hold it by regular services. The Baptists are coming! Indeed, I understand that they have now organized one church in this state, at Sierra Mojada.

For us, the most important step is to hold the mountain region. The key to this is Cosihuiriáchic (called Cosi, often). This place is 75 miles west of here, connected by a semi-weekly stage, and a telegraph line. It is an important mining town, perhaps the most important of the state, certainly it is the most important as regards its situation, for the line of communication with Batopilas, Pinos Altos, and all the other large mines, is through Cosi. The way has been opened there by tours, and we already have several

believers in that town, among them, one who has been holding the office of judge, and there are many friends, as is shown by the 68 subscribers to our evangelical paper.

Just east of Cosi is the great plain, with good road connections to El Valle de Zaragoza, about 100 miles south-east, and also to Guerrero and San Ysidro, fifty miles north-west, and other towns beyond, to which we have especial calls now. On the west is the mountain region, filled with mines, and interspersed with rich, almost tropical valleys.

To my mind, the chief argument for establishing work at Cosi is that it offers a beginning for work among the Indians, and commands the key, geographically, to such work. Ever since coming here, I have been especially drawn to this work, but the great difficulty has been that little definite information could be obtained in regard to the Indians. This morning, Mr. Eaton and I visited a gentleman of this city who is thoroughly informed on this subject, has lived among the Indians from his youth, and has constant communication with them now. I am speaking of the tribe called the Taraumares (pronounced

Tah-rah-oo-máh-rás), the most numerous, and almost the only one in the state. He says that there are over 100 000 of these Indians between Cosi and Batopilas! This is a much larger number than we had ever supposed possible, other estimates not exceeding 40 000, and many giving still less, but this gentleman has been employed by the Gov't. to take a census of a district which includes a part of them, and he knows, thoroughly, all their country, and is sure that he does not over-estimate. A large proportion of these are of the "Gentiles", or those who are in no way connected with the Roman Church, while all of them are almost entirely deserted by the catholic priests now, and the few priests who remain are very corrupt. This man said that they actually corrupt and degrade the people, instead of elevating them, and another gentleman (a Mexican), an avowed infidel with no faith in any religious teaching, told us last night, with an expressive gesture, "Gentlemen, whatever you may do for those poor Indians, it will be an advance, for I do not believe it is possible for them to go any farther backward."

Still, all admit that they are capable, and have good intellectual ability, if developed, but they have been

abused, abused terribly, and duped by Mexican and by American, by priest and by worldling, for year after year, until it is no wonder that they want to hide themselves in the woods and caves of their own rocky cañons.

The probability of an opening for work for this people, never before reached, and so needy, is the chief argument with me, for beginning work in Cosi. Establishing ourselves there, we may be able to get hold of some of these Indians, convert them, train them as we can, and send them back to preach the gospel to their own people, in their own tongue. While comparatively few of them speak Spanish, there are always some in each village or community, who understand that language. Then, also, we may make tours through their country from Cosi, preaching through interpreters where they do not understand Spanish, and even learning their language, if that be necessary.

This, then, is the question; shall we establish work in Cosihuiriáchic, by the removal of one of the families in Chihuahua?

On our return from Zaragoza, the Eatons suggested that we move to Cosi, to carry on the work so much needed there, with the thought

of returning here after two years or so, to take charge of a training class, if it could be gathered by that time. To that plan I added the suggestion of the Indian work. If that should open, as I hope it will, it would hardly seem wise to abandon it for the training class, when that shall be needed, but, is it not probable that, by the time we need a man for the training class, the Board will be able to increase the working force here? In the mean time, is it not best to take up this work which is now ready for us, and has been waiting for some one so long?

The opinion of this station is, that work should be begun at Cosi, and that Mrs. Wright and I are the ones who should go there. Copies of this letter will be sent to the other members of the No. Mex. Mission, who will write directly to you if they have suggestions to offer.

If this plan should meet the approval of the Prud. Com. we would like to be informed as soon as possible, so that we may make preparations immediately. If we go, we would like to have our goods on the way by the latter part of June, as the rains begin in July, and if they are not sent by that time, we would

be delayed several months, and we might not be able to get through until next spring.

Our removal would incur some additional expense, but it is impossible to tell just how much. The rent of a house and a room for chapel, probably will not exceed 40^{oo} a month. Living is higher there than here, and some increase to the salary we are now receiving, may be necessary. I should need a horse and buggy, in order to reach the outstations. The horse, I will furnish from my own funds, but I should have to ask the Board to furnish the buggy. The cost of such articles is very high here, and a suitable conveyance could not be bought for less than from $175 to $200 Am. Coll.

Hoping to hear from you on this subject as soon as is practicable, I am,

Respectfully Yours,

A. C. Wright.

P.S. Mr. and Mrs. Eaton start next week for a six week's stay in San Ysidro. He has read this letter, and approves of the plan, as here presented.

A. C. W.

Rec'd Aug 16.

Chihuahua, Mexico, May 14th, 1888.

Rev. N. G. Clark D.D.

After thinking more over the plan presented in my letter of the 10th, and talking with various persons in regard to the time when the rainy season may begin, I realize more fully the necessity of knowing, as soon as possible, the decision of the Pmd. Com. It will require five weeks, at least, to make the buggy, but having this to go in will save fully $30.00 diligence fare. If we go, I will need to go to El Paso first, for various things needed. These, and various other things, will take time, and unless we know the decision soon, I fear we cannot go this year, because of the danger to the goods on the way. There-fore I suggest that you telegraph me the decision, in a few words, as soon as made. I hope that you will not think that I wish to rush things. It is only that a little haste, now may save time and money in the end, for if it is decided for us to go to Cosi, and we are not able to go before the rains, the time spent here will be, comparatively, lost.

In a letter from Mr. Case, received today, he heartily favors this plan, in view of the opportunity to begin work for the Indians, but I trust that he has written directly to you.

In regard to the expense of such a plan, the only items I now think of, which would continue from year to year, are,

1. Rent of house, and chapel.
2. Keep of horse.
3. Increase of salary, if needed. (It certainly would not be needed)
4. Native helper, after a time, but not at first.
5. Touring.

Of expenses involved in moving and starting there,

1. Moving of goods.
2. Buggy and harness
3. Baby-organ. (Perhaps will not be needed for some months.
4. Benches, and other furniture for chapels.

In regard to the buggy, Mr. Eaton reminds me that he has refunded to the Board the $110.00 (I believe) which was furnished for purchase of horse and harness.

This will be, practically, opening new work (viz. for the Indians), but at much less expense than could possibly be done otherwise, and, at the same time, carrying on the work for the Mexicans already so well begun. The change will necessitate some sacrifices on our part, and give us much responsibility, but we will gladly accept the responsibility, and forget the sacrifices if our brethren of the mission and of the Prud. Com. ~~have~~ think us worthy of this work.

Respectfully Yours, A. C. Wright.

Rec'd May 22

Cosihuiriachic, Chihuahua, Mexico
July 9th 1888

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D.
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:

We are now in our new field of labor, and preparing to begin work. June 20th, after packing all our goods, besides keeping up the regular services there, and going to Paso del Norte to administer the Lord's Supper and receive members to the church the first Sunday of June, I left Chihuahua for this place, and rode the 75 miles on horseback in a day and a half. I met Mr. and Mrs. Eaton here, returning from their San Isidro trip. My special object was to secure a house, but it was very hard to find one that would do at all, and rent is very high. The best I could do was to secure a house which is in process of construction, and have it made with a floor and windows, and place for stoves, all of which would have been left out, if finished as the owner had planned. To secure this place I am obliged to pay in advance $240 Mex silver, to make these necessary changes and additions, but receive the house at a much lower rent, to compensate, viz. $22.00 a month for two years, with the

right to subrent, and can keep it for a third year at $30.00 a month if I choose. The house, finished as it will be, is worth, at least, $35.00 a month rent. There will be other expenses which I will have to pay, to fit the house for occupancy, such as out-houses, for horse &c. glass for windows, and cup-boards & book shelves to be made.

After finishing this business, and receiving the goods, I returned to Chihuahua, arriving Sat. June 30th. These horse-back rides in the sun are very tiresome, and now that the buggy is finished, I hope that I shall not find it necessary to take such long ones on horseback. On Thurs. July 5th, I started back, with Mrs. Wright, in the buggy, and we arrived here Sat. morning, after a night spent in the buggy, under a tree, because of the rain. We are now living in a room in one part of the town, with our goods stowed in a room in another part, waiting for the house to be finished, or one or two rooms of it, that we may unpack some of our things. I said that we are waiting, but we are not *idly* waiting. I am kept busy mending the furniture broken on the road, helping in the building of the house, and in making acquaintances and preparing the way for public services and active missionary work later. I find many who are interested to know more of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, many more who are curious to know who we are, and what we are going to do, and,

so far, we have been well received by all. One man has had a Bible for a few months. The priest told him that it was one of the protestant books, and asked him to give it to him to burn. The man replied that he had bought it with his own money, and did not propose to burn it, for he liked the book very well. He has seen a little of our manner of worship, and he told me that he was much pleased with it, and thought us more sincere, and pure than his own church, for he says that he is a Roman Catholic still. But he says that our religion is too strict for him, for he sees that we never buy on Sunday, nor go to dances, nor bull-fights, and never drink liquor, and these have their attractions for him. He prefers to remain in the old church where he has lived for nine years and attended mass but twice in all that time. It is a much more convenient religion. Yes; and we prefer that he should remain there, until the Lord Jesus touches his heart, and so fills it with love, that he will have no more desire for the world and the things of the world.

I find many Indians here, too, and they are hard workers, doing the drudgery of the town. Through these, who know a little Spanish,

I long to send the good tiding to the others of the interior, and the Lord will open the way before long, I am sure.

The one thing we need immediately in mission work here, and to take with us on trips to Guerrero, San Isidro, Temosachic, and new points to be opened, is a folding baby organ. We wish to take such trips frequently, perhaps every month, and nothing will help more in attracting new persons to our services than such an instrument. The Young People's Soc. of the church in Clinton, Wis. Mrs. Wright's home, have arranged to buy just such an instrument as we need, in Milwaukee and donate to this work. Will the Board add enough to pay freight and duty? If so, please inform me as soon as possible, that we may have it for our fall trips.

In regard to sending the man, of whom you wrote to Mr. Eaton, to Chihuahua, it has seemed to me that probably Sonora and the West Coast would need re-enforcements sooner than this state, and that a single man could do more, comparatively, there than here. I have also thought that if Mr. and Mrs. Eaton keep their health they could probably carry on the work very well in Chihuahua for the present. This is my first thought, and without opportunity to consult with others of the mission. Mrs. Wright joins me in sending kindest regards.

Yours truly, A. C. Wright.

Chihuahua, July 9, 1888.
Rec'd July 18.

Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.
Cosihuiriachic, Es'do de Chia.
Mexico, July 17th, 1888

Rev. N. G. Clark D.D.
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir;

Since my letter of July 9th, I have heard again from Clinton, and learn that the organ which they proposed to buy, will not answer our purpose, as it is not ~~portable~~ folding, and therefore, not portable, for use on tours to other towns. It is probable that the Soc. will send their contribution to help start a reading-room in this place, an enterprise very much needed, and which will be appreciated, and help directly in our mission work.

But we need the baby organ first of all. Of those we have seen, the Mason and Hamlin, four or four and a half octave, folding, is the best. In packing, the lighter the box, consistent with safety, the better, for duty is charged by weight including packing. Will the Board give us a grant for this? You will remember that this is one of the things I mentioned as necessary for beginning work in Cosi., although I was then thinking of a larger organ, to remain here all the time, and which would be more expensive.

If granted, can Mr. Swett see to

purchasing and forwarding as soon as possible.
It may be sent to A. C. Wright, El Paso, Texas, forwarding me the bill of lading, and I can arrange by order, the rest of the journey, and payment of duties.

Our house is not finished yet, and the heavy rains are hindering the work, so that the construction of two of the rooms will have to be delayed until after the rainy season, some time in Oct. or Nov. This, of course, will be a great inconvenience, but will do the best we can with what we have.

Respectfully Yours
A. C. Wright

Rec'd July 25

arrives. We have had services in our own

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Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.
Cosihuiriachic, Es'do de Chia,
Mexico, Aug. 17th, 1888

Rev. N. G. Clark D.D.
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir;
Your letters of July 19th and Aug 2d were
duly received. We rejoice in the prospect of the "Baby"
organ. If a thick canvas case (for the organ), with straps and
buckles, could be made, and shipped with the organ,
it would save much expense, and be just what
we need here, to carry the organ in from place to place.
At El Paso the organ could be taken out of the wooden
box, and shipped by express, in the canvas case,
and so save paying the heavy organ duty on the box.
Our work here is progressing. We are able,
this week, to enter our house, and unpack the rest
of our goods, which have had to remain all this time
in the boxes. I have been able to secure a room
for public services, on the main street, and in the
most frequented part of town, at ten dollars a
month. It is small, but is large enough for the
present. We expect to hold the first service in it
a week from next Sunday. The dozen pine benches
which I have just received from the carpenter, and
a little table will be all the furniture we can
give it now. Mrs. Wright will give up her organ,
to put in the chapel until the new one

Mission of the A.B.C.F.M.

Mission of the A.B.C.F.M.

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Boston Mass

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arrives, We have had services in our own house two Sundays, with small attendance, because of the retired street, and the private house, but consisting of some of the best class of people of the place. The daughter and sister of the mayor attended one of the services. We already have many friends, and hope to have a good congregation, and the blessing of the Lord in the conversion of many souls, as soon as the fear of some, and the curiosity of others shall have been satisfied.

Last week Thursday, we drove to San Isidro, about 50 miles north of here. On Friday I canvassed in Guerrero for renewals and new subscribers for the evangelical paper "El Faro", and arranged for a service there the following night. I then returned to San Isidro, and took Mrs. Wright over a very rough road to San Pascual, to visit the brethren there. On Sat. we drove to Guerrero, and were warmly welcomed and entertained by one of the chief men of the place. At the evening service there eight men and four ladies inside, with three or four times as many at the door and windows, while several others who came early, went away before the service began. I think a good work is beginning there also. On Sunday we drove over to San Isidro, conducted the S. S. in the morning, and I preached to a fair congregation in the afternoon. Then Monday, we returned over the the 50 miles to Cosi, a hard ride for Mrs. Wright. We are well and enjoy this cool climate very much, except that it gives me a touch of rheumatism in one shoulder each morning.

Yours truly, A. C. Wright.

Mexico, Aug. 17-1888

Rec'd Aug. 27

Purchased & Shipped.

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Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.
Cusihuiriachic, Es'do de Chia.
Mexico, Aug. 28th 1888

Rev. N. G. Clark D.D.
Sec'y. A. B. C. F. M., Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir -

I write to present a special subject for your consideration, and later, if you think best to present it, for the consideration of the Prud. Com.. It is in regard to the establishment of a day-school at this station. When we first came, I did not suppose that it would be best to think of a school in Cusi, at least not at present, as I supposed the schools in Chihuahua and in Parral would supply the need. But I have since changed my opinion, and wish to give you the reasons for this change.

It has been said that the common schools of Mexico are good, and are growing better. This is true in the large cities, and in places of importance. It is also true that the rich can, and very generally do, educate their families liberally; but the out-of-the-way places, like these mountain villages, have miserable schools, or none, and there is not sufficient accommodation for all who ought to be in school. For example, Cusi, has (and only one) one boys' school with 200 attending. In very many of the villages there is no school ~~at all~~ for

the girls, and many have none at all. Our mission schools should be so situated as to supply the greatest need, and I think there is no other place in the state which we can now hold, better situated to supply schoolless villages.

But let me give you some of the especial arguments which have been pressing upon us since our arrival.

1st. Almost from the first day, inquiries have been made like this: "When are you going to open your school?" "Where do you expect to have the school?" All seem to take it for granted that there is to be a school, but we have had to reply that we had no intention of starting a school immediately.

2d. We have had several applications to receive scholars. The mayor of the town and district has expressed to us his desire to send his little girl to our school. At least five others have wished to send their children, some of them with much urgency.

3d. In two cases, one of a young lady, and the other a little boy, the need has seemed so great, and the parents so anxious, that Mrs. Wright has consented to teach them herself, although, of course it takes considerable time. She is not strong enough however, to do much of such work, in addition to the more direct evangelistic work needed.

4th. Considering the school-work needed in this town alone, however, I should not think it best to establish a school here. We could begin immediately, with, perhaps, fifteen scholars, but

Cosi. alone will not furnish a large school. It is in connection with the Indian work that I feel the need of a school most. Here are 75 or 100 thousand Indians with no schools whatever. Here is the greatest need in the educational line that we have in the state of Chihuahua. I was talking with an intelligent Indian the other day, who comes from a settlement of pure Indians, about 60 miles from here, and who is held as a prisoner here, on a false charge, I am assured. He said that the greatest need of his people is school privileges. He agreed with me that they had nothing to hope from teachers sent to them, but their only hope is in educating some of their own young men and women, and sending them back to lift their own brothers and sisters from ignorance and degradation. This will be done soon, by the Gov't, we are told, but ~~and~~ if we can have a controling influence in this education, if we can send back these youths as Christian teachers, we shall have the key to the evangelization of the whole tribe. It is hard to get these youth to send to Chihuahua or other places farther away to educate; and ~~even~~ when once taken, it would be harder to get them back. But if educated here, in daily conversation with their own tribe, in their own language, (for there are many working here all the time), in monthly communication with their own relatives, perhaps, it will be more

reasonable to expect them to go back to help their friends. Such work can be begun in connection with a school here, and, so far as I see, can only be so begun. The educational work for the Indians will have to be largely gratuitous, but the Mexican part will help to carry the expenses, and future work can be made self-supporting among the Indians. Last Sunday several of the Indians were attracted in from the street to our service, and on entering, asked if they might be permitted to stay. Permission was given, and they listened attentively and respectfully the whole time, and went away well pleased. During the service I saw a Mexican gentleman look in, say with a cynical air, "puros Tarahumares", "pure Indians", and pass on. Some of the Mexicans do not want to hear the gospel yet, but so far as I have known them, the Tarahumares are all willing to hear, anxious to learn, and very needy. I believe that if Christ were here He would preach to the Tarahumares, and that his heart would be touched by their spiritual need, and he would heal their infirmity.

5th. Let me add, that if it does seem best to establish a school here, we know of a thoroughly competent, educated, consecrated young lady, who probably will be willing to accept an appointment for

this work. It will not be best to mention her name just yet, for several reasons. But if she should come ~~with her~~, some work with a few scholars who know English a little, could be begun on her arrival, and as fast as she gained mastery of the Spanish, the other departments could be begun. With this school as a nucleus, I could gather in scholars, give especial instruction to advanced scholars, and in a few years we would have an evangelizing band of Mexicans and Tarahumares to send through all this mountain region.

6th Expenses necessary for such work.

The salary of the lady teacher, of course. Furniture for a school room, not exceeding $75.00 I think. Running expenses of the school, perhaps $10.00 a month, though I presume that this would be more than covered by tuition, as those who have applied, are able and willing to pay. For the first year it will not be necessary to hire a separate room for the school, as school and services can be held in the same room. But a room for the teacher may have to be supplied, as our house is too small, and this would cost, perhaps $8.00 a month. Another organ would be needed. These are all the expenses which I think would be needed during the first year.

Such a school would not draw away

any from the Chihuahua school, and may act as a feeder for it to some extent. The schools which we already have are needed, and the only question now is, is there not a need, and a pressing one, for this school also?

I will send this letter to Mr. Eaton, who will forward it to you with his opinion, and I will send copies to the other members of this mission, that they may correspond with you directly on the subject. Our Conference does not meet until in December, so that the Mission cannot act upon it as a whole, until that time. If the question can be settled soon, it might be possible to have the lady here in time to begin work the last of this year, which would certainly be a great advantage to all.

Respectfully Yours,

A. C. Wright.

P. S. We have questioned whether a native teacher might not take this place, but such an one as we could secure would not be competent to carry out the plan for Indian work, nor would ~~she~~ we be able to secure for her the scholars of which we have spoken, in Cosi.

A. C. W.

Aug. 20, 1880. Rec'd Dec. 28.

Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.
Cusihuiriachic, Es'do de Chia.
Mexico, Sept. 4th 1888

Rev. N. G. Clark D.D.
Cor. Sec. A. B. C. F. M.

Dear Sir:

We had hoped that the opening of this month would find us fully settled in our new home, but the last few days have disturbed our plans. The fall rains have come, with their fine mists and drizzling, continuous rains. We are now on the fifth day, and the roofs of our house have not stood the test. The water began to filter through the first day, and has continued, until, yesterday, we had to abandon the house, carrying what furniture we could, through the rain, here to the chapel, which, fortunately, is dry. During the rain, there is not a place two feet square in our four rooms, which does not receive a little stream from the roofs, and the floors are flooded.

But enough of this, for the sun will come out again, and varnish and glue will restore some of the furniture, and clothes will dry.

Our new chapel, we think, will be a great help to us. It is on the principal street, and many passers-by stop to hear the music, or the words of the preacher. Sunday before last we held our first services here, and about a dozen persons

ventured in and took seats (one-half of them Indians), and a crowd of 25 or 30, children and older persons crowded around the two doors, and listened respectfully for the most part. In the evening, about 30 entered, and a still larger number pushed and ~~crowded~~ at the doors, but all listened while I spoke of "the Foundation of our belief" from 1 Cor. 3:11. Last Sunday the rain prevented the meetings. My helper has met friends at a place within easy reach from this town, and I shall soon go to hold a service there if possible.

Last week I wrote a letter to you, telling of the causes which have led us to the opinion that a day school ought to be established here. We came with the contrary opinion, but have been forced to this by the condition and needs of the field. Upon further consideration, however, it seemed best to withhold the letter until the conference of the Mission in December next that we may consult together as to what is best to ask, but before making this decision I had sent copies of the letter to Mr. Case and Mr. Crawford, asking them to send their opinions on the subject directly to you. If, therefore, you should receive communications on this subject, this will explain their cause, and after consultation with all the brethren, I will present the matter to you in detail. Mrs. Wright sends regards to you. We are well, except that I have slight touches of Rheumatism. Respectfully Yours, A.C. Wright.

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Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.
Cosihuiriachic, Es'do de Chia.
Mexico, Oct. 12th 1888

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D.

Dear Sir:

Since my last letter, of Sept. 4th, we have again settled in our house, the rains have ceased, and our work has prospered we believe. We were somewhat disappointed for two Sundays, by the lack of hearers, but now they are beginning to come in to the services, and all who come seem greatly interested, and well pleased with all they see and hear. We know that many are hindered from coming by fear of public opinion, but we can see that predjudices are vanishing, public opinion is changing, and we trust that their fears will also disappear. Those who venture inside are few, to be counted in the tens, or less, but those who listen attentively at the doors, are usually two or three times as many. We have gathered a little class of five or six boys, some of them from the better families of the place, and all bright, and eager to learn, which Mrs. Wright teaches Sunday mornings, while I talk to all the rest who may come in. In the evening we have a regular preaching service, with larger attendance.

So much for the public services. In

outside work among individuals and families, we can see that our influence is increasing daily. Not only in this place, but in all the towns, and many of the ranches, for fifty miles around, we are gaining a foot-hold. I visited the place of which I spoke in my last, El Mortero, and found the owner of the ranch, and all his large family, very favorably disposed, and later we will hold services in his house. I have been, with my helper, to Carichic, 35 miles South-West, a town never before visited by evangelicals, and sold several Bibles, and considerable religious literature, found several friends, and arranged for another visit. The priest will oppose us strongly there.

Rec'd Oct. 20

All the month I have suffered from rheumatism, and last week I decided to spend in resting, and so took Mrs. Wright to a camp in the mountains, about 60 miles from here, where our friend, Mr. Pringle, is collecting botanical specimens. We returned, however, in time for the Sunday services. This week, Monday I started for San Isidro, 50 miles on horse-back; reached there Tues. night, visited Wed, and in the evening celebrated the Lord's Supper, with that little church. Started back Thurs. and arrived here this morning.

We greatly need the "Baby Organ" on these tours, but have heard nothing from it for a long time. I sincerely hope that it may reach Chihuahua by Dec 1st so that we may bring it back with us on our return from the conference,

Yours truly, A. C. Wright

Cosihuiriachic, Estdo de Chihuahua,
Mexico, Nov. 6th 1888.

Rev. N. G. Clark D.D.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of Oct. 20 was duly received, and we are rejoiced to know that the organ is on its way. During the past month I have been at work visiting all the 64 subscribers of "El Faro", our evangelical paper, and receiving new subscriptions. Although some of the old ones retire, and several have moved from the place, we are receiving more than enough new ones to fill their places.

Our congregations are still very small, so that Sunday is usually a very discouraging day, but we are cheered by different ones coming to the house to talk, and showing much interest in religion, and also by the prospect of having the help of one or two families from the Chihuahua congregation, who

propose coming here to live.

I have been obliged to take a very hasty trip to Chihuahua and return (150 miles) in order to secure a better horse for touring work, the one I had proving ~~entirely~~ decidedly unsafe to use. I lost heavily on him, and we feel it because our house expenses since coming here, have been 1/2 higher than in Chihuahua, and this is the cheapest season of the year. But we now have a horse which even Mrs. Wright can drive with safety, and will serve us much better. Next week Monday we start for the annual conference in Guadalajara, having been appointed as delegate, last year. We shall enjoy the trip very much, shall see something of the interior of Mexico, which is very different from this State, and hope to learn of the methods and comparative success of the other missions and missionaries. I also hope to return freed from my touches of rheumatism.

Respectfully Yours

A. C. Wright.

Rec'd Nov. 6, 1889

Cosihuiriachic, Mexico, (Est^do de Chihuahua)
Dec. 21st 1888

Rev. N. G. Clark D.D.
Boston, Mass.
Dear Sir:

Returning from our long trip last Friday, I found your favors of Nov. 13 and Nov 17 awaiting me. The "Baby Organ" has been received in perfect order, and we will soon write to Mr. Jones and the Farmington S.S. of the missionary work which it does, and how it speaks right out in meeting, to the edification of all present.

We enjoyed thoroughly our journey with the visits and Conferences interspersed. We have not before seen any of the work of the other denominations in this country, nor the interior, the more thickly settled part of the Republic, nor do we expect to have such an opportunity very soon again; and while going so near, we concluded to take a little more time, and visit the city of Mexico on the way to Guadalajara. We feel richly repaid in the new friends gained among the missionaries there, especially of the Pres. Board, and of the Meth. E. North. We saw a good deal of their missionary work, and learned many new things. I was surprised to learn of the relation which exists

between the Pres. Missy's and the native pastors and churches. The latter are jealous of the former, and seldom invite them to preach, or to help in any of the offices of the pastor. (This is not for the press.) They (the Missy's) are very busy, of course, in editorial, educational, and general superintending work for the Mission, but they come into actual contact very little with the people. I realize that the ideal missionary is not a pastor of one church, but a leader and director of the native pastors of many churches, but nevertheless, he should be in the heartiest sympathy, and closest communication with the pastors and the people. We went out to Tlalpam to visit the Theol. Training School (Pres.) under the charge of Rev. H. C. Thompson, a thorough scholar, and a good teacher. The young men showed the effect of good drilling, and their course of study is excellent; but the great defect is this; they jump from the reader and elementary arithmetic to Theology, Latin, Greek and Hebrew. They are boys, supported entirely by the Mission, and under such a system it is to be expected that a large proportion will not be the steady, reliable pastors we need. And this is their experience. Of all those educated by the Pres. as yet, very few are proving themselves good pastors of their churches; indeed, Dr. J. Prevot, of Zacatecas, told

Mr. Howland that there is not a single one.
I also enjoyed exceedingly an hour spent with the Com. working on a new Spanish version of the Bible, under the leader-ship of Rev. Mr. H. B. Pratt. I was pleased to find that Mr. Howland, the one appointed by the two Cong. Mex. Missions on that Com. is considered as one of the most influential members. Mr. Pratt told me that he received more help from him than from any other member.

In Guadalajara we enjoyed the Conference very much, the details of which you will hear from there. In Mr. and Mrs. Howland we found the busiest missionaries that we have yet met; editor, theological professor, Bible reviser, pastor, and presiding elder all in one; and although in that field the effect does not appear very speedily, I do believe that the foundation is well laid, and it would be a great mistake not to build upon it ourselves. Others have a great many names to build upon, but I believe that we have the character.

Of the Conference in Chihuahua, also, you will hear from other sources. We had splendid meetings, and came back with new enthusiasm to work "in our "small corner". I am sorry that I had to report need of more salary, and other expenses necessary, but mining towns, retired from the rail-roads, are always

expensive places to live in. Reckoning up the household expenses for the months of Aug. Sept. and Oct., we found the cost to have been one half more than for the same months of last year, and those are the best months of the year here.

In regard to the Indians, I have not forgotten them, but press of other work has put them in the background for a short time. With the report from the Conference, you will see that we wish to prepare to do more for them. They are a peculiar people, and in order to gain their confidence, one must go properly prepared, and in the right company. They may be suspicious at first, but I am sure we can gain them in time. The expedition proposed is for the purpose of knowing certainly where they are, how many they are, and what they need. We have worked at arm's length, so far. I now wish to come nearer. The more I learn about them, the more I am convinced of their need, and the feasability and duty of helping them. I talked with one yesterday, who has been in at our services, and he was delighted at the thought of a school especially for his people.

I enclose a letter written last August, but not sent then because the fifth division, in regard to the prospect of one whom we knew to take such a school had disappeared, and because it seemed best to wait until after a thorough expedition through their country

had been made. I only send it now, that you may see what our line of thought is. As I wrote you before coming to Cosi, I would hardly think it best to establish ~~work here~~ a Miss'y family here solely for the Mexican work, but if we can gain a foot-hold in this tribe of Indians, it will be a most fruitful field.

In regard to the organ, the total expenses have amounted to a little more than the $50.00 so kindly given by the S.S., and this has been charged to my personal account, for lack of other appropriation. The exact sum I have not at hand now, but my extras have been so many during the past few months, that I would be glad if this item could be arranged for, otherwise. As our Mission has ~~no~~ appropriation for only one delegate to visit the West. Mex. Conference, and as Mrs. Wright went with me, it has drawn heavily from my ~~own~~ funds. I am strongly of the opinion, as are those with whom I have spoken on the subject, that if it is best to send any delegate, it is best to send two, a missionary with his wife. We believe that it has paid with us.

Returning to our field, we find an

accumulation of work pressing upon us. On Sunday, without any opportunity to give out notice, fifteen came in the morning, and twenty in the evening, and at prayer-meeting last night there were twenty present, five of whom had never attended a protestant service before. We are arranging for a special service for Christmas Eve, and the prospect now is that we will not have room for all who will wish to come. Mrs. Wright's mother and little sister, of seven years, met us in Chihuahua, and came out with us, to spend the winter. Mrs. Olds has been in poor health for some time, and we hope that this climate will be helpful for her. I am aware that this letter is already long, but for that very reason, succeeding ones will not need to be so long.

Mrs. Wright joins me in kind regards.

Respectfully Yours

A. C. Wright.

Cusihuiriachic, Dec. 11, [illegible]
Rec'd Dec. 28.

Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.
Cosihuiriachic, Es'do de Chia.
Mexico, Jan. 8th 1889

Rev. N. G. Clark D.D.
Boston, Mass.,

Dear Sir:

One matter which I omitted to mention in my last letter, was in regard to the school in Chihuahua. It was decided by the Conference that a boarding-school for girls ought to be started in Chihuahua, and the question then came up about Miss Keyes' connection with it, and Mr. and Mrs. Eaton wished us to write to you our opinion, as we have known as much about her, and her work, as any one in the Mission, probably. We wish, first of all, to express our esteem for her personally, our regard for her Christian character, and our assurance of her purpose to consecrate herself fully to God's service. But we believe, as she says, that she is physically unable to superintend a boarding-school, while it does seem to us that one person ought to be able to do all that is required there at present. In fact, her health has not permitted her, at any time since she has been in Mexico, to do more than

the routine work of the school-room, nor does her health seem to improve. We think that this is only a part of what the lady teacher should be able to do on the missionary field, and while we feel extremely sorry for Miss Keyes, and sincerely hope that her health may improve, we do not see how she can reasonably expect to do the full work needed at present. The lack is not of desire on her part, but of strength.

This letter, of course, is private, and only written that you may know what the general impression on the subject is.

Mrs. Wright joins me in kind regards to yourself.

Respectfully yours,
A. C. Wright.

Case - Shidzuoka - Jan 8th - 89
[illegible] Keyes

Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.
Cosihuiriachic, Es'do de Chia.
Mexico, Jan 22d 1889

Rev. N. G. Clark D.D.

Dear Sir:

Although I have had no letter directly from you since our return from Guadalajara, I have had the privilege of reading some at Mr. Eaton's last week, and some extracts copied from a letter to Mr. Case. Our work has been progressing, with its discouraging as well as its hopeful aspects. On Christmas Eve, 85 persons, (including the chief officials, teachers, and business men of the place, came to our special service, and all expressed themselves as very much pleased with the exercises. As we have not secured a chapel yet, we hold the services in our parlor, and this was more than filled on that occasion. Since then the attendance has been smaller than before, on account of the removal of two families (connected with a Circus Co.!), who had been very regular attendants. But we have been cheered by the application of a man and his wife for reception to church membership. They have been faithful at services for ~~two~~ months, and in the study of the Bible, and have given proofs of true conversion, the man giving up drink and other vices. We think it hardly best to organize a church here until there are more to join, but are planning

to have recognition as a branch of the Chihuahua Church for the present, with power to receive members with previous knowledge and consent of that church. There are six members of that Church now living here, and these, with the two already mentioned if they continue faithful during the three months of probation required here, and with ourselves, will form large enough a body for a branch organization we think. We hope, also, that there will soon be other candidates, for the Spirit of the Lord seems to be at work in various places and in different ways.

The week after the Christmas entertainment I went to San Ysidro (fifty miles), starting after a light snow-storm, and encountering such cold weather that I could not get many out to services. I returned the whole distance on Friday. The next week (Mrs. W— and I) we went to El Mortero, the first trip of the "Baby Organ", and to hold the first Evangelical services there. There were 27 present, and all paid good attention; but I believe that Mrs. Wright will enclose a description of this tour. The week following (last week) I went to Chihuahua, in accordance with the desire of the Mission at the Annual meeting, to audit the accounts of the Treasurer. It is hardly necessary, except for the principle involved, as Mr. Eaton is so careful and exact in his accounts. The trip was a hard one on account of the cold, and part of the time stormy,

and continual rheumatic reminders,
weather, but I enjoyed the privilege of hearing of the bright outlook in Chihuahua, seeing the preparations for the boarding-school, and the new arrangements for the boys' school with its promise of partial self-support, learning of the open stand being taken by a few who have been gravitating toward us for some months, and many other items of interest.
But even among so much of hope, there are discouragements. I was sorry to find that Miss Keyes had been unable to leave the house for over a week on account of rheumatism. The greatest danger there, is that either Mr. or Mrs. Eaton or both, will over-do themselves through the press of work presented, and the neglect of certain small ways of relieving the pressure, at their disposal; but I am glad to say that Mr. Eaton has never seemed in better health since I have known him, than now.
Two days going, ~~two~~ one and a half days at accounts, and one and a half returning, left Saturday for rest and preparation for Sunday, just as on the San Ysidro trip. This week we go to El Mortero again.

I have begun a reading class for the men, for general instruction on religious subjects, and Mrs. Wright is carrying on a woman's meeting with success. Mrs. Olds helps us in the music, and in many ways, and little Bessie, Mrs. Wright's sister, attracts

much attention, and gains many friends.

Last Sunday evening I took up the first collection for running expenses, receiving $1.50 from a congregation of 20 persons.

We are waiting to hear your opinion, or that of the Prud. Com. in regard to the proposed tour of exploration among the Tarahumare Indians. In itself, it is not a desirable trip, but only in view of the needs represented, and the probable opportunity to help. I think there is no other opening for Christian work equal to it in Mexico now, and am certain there is not in Northern Mexico. One very hopeful feature is that there is no probability of inter-denominational complications in that field for years to come. But for my part, I do not care to go upon this errand without the hearty sympathy of the Board, expressed in this object, nor do I wish to go without authority to promise them help if the need is sufficiently great, and there is feasable opening for work. I had supposed that the very sending of us here, with the Indian Work as one of the chief objects in view, was sufficient guarantee of the interest in that work, and willingness to prosecute it, but I would like to know definitely the feeling in regard to this plan. I know the financial condition, and if it is impossible to grant aid for such promising new work as this, it will be best to abandon or post-pone the expedition before more preparations are made.

Respectfully Yours
A. C. Wright.

Ans. June 22 89

P.S. The total cost of the "Baby Organ" was $59.45 U.S. Cy. leaving
X $9.45 not covered by any appropriation — A.C.W.

Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.
Cosihuiriachic, Es do de Chia.
Mexico. Feb. 1st 1889

Rev. N. G. Clark D.D.,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of Jan. 15th was received by the last mail. In it you refer to mine of Jan. 8th, which speaks of Miss Keyes, but from your request for more information about our work here, and from the fact that its receipt has not been acknowledged, I fear that my letter of Dec. 21st has not reached you. If this is the case, please notify me, as I shall wish to reapeat, at least a part of it. In it I spoke of our visit to Mexico, Guadalajara, and Chihuahua, acknowledged receipt of "Baby Organ", referred to increased expenses of living here, of the condition of the work, increased attendance &c. here, of the arrival of Mrs. Wright's mother and little sister, to spend the winter with us, and of the Indian work, enclosing a letter written last August, on this subject. Before receiving this I hope you will have received mine of Jan. 22d. which also refers to some of these subjects.

In regard to the advance on salary, I am sorry that is necessary. I was also sorry to ask for it, and would not have done so if I had seen any way

to avoid it. It was foreseen, and mentioned before coming here. As I said in the letter of Dec. 21st, our house expenses for Aug. Sept. and Oct. were one half more than for the corresponding months of last year, and at the same time we have lived much more economically as regards the provisions. These winter and spring months are much worse. The only available vegetables now are potatoes and onions, still we are able to live comfortably, but not within our salary. I have fallen behind every month that we have been here. – If the $240 (Mex. Sil. = about $185 - U.S. Cy.) for a native helper cannot be spared we shall have to get along without one, but it will cripple us seriously. This field is so large, and there are so many places that ought to be visited that one missionary cannot do it all. Speaking to a Cuban who has seen something of missionary work in other parts, he named three places in this vicinity where he thought we ought to have missionaries and build churches "with a steeple and a bell". If we can't furnish the missionaries, we hope to send them native ministers to urge the people themselves to build the churches, with all the equipments necessary. If I can find time, I would like to write soon, of the way these native helpers can open the way for us, and enter where we cannot, as yet. Mrs. Wright joins me in kindest regards.

Yours truly, A. C. Wright.

Resumen of the year 1888.

Number of services conducted.	106
Total attendance	3857
Largest "	150
Smallest "	8

Baptisms, Infants 2; Adults 3.

Ordination sermon - for native	1
Marriage (assisted at one other)	1
Assisted in organization of Church (16 members)	1
Held first Evangelical services in new places.	3
Miles traveled (including trip to Guadalajara)	5297

x

First part of year, much engaged in school work, and last half in opening new work, building house &c.

For January of 1889.

Services held (Not including one evening a week reading with the men)	15
Total attendance	236
Established regular services in new places	1
Miles traveled	300

Coei, Feb. 1, 1889.

Rec'd Feb. 11.

P. 6. mf

Cosihuiriachic, Est'do. de Chihuahua, Mexico.
Feb. 22d., 1889.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D.
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of Jan. 29th. is at hand with its suggestions in regard to work, and I heartily thank you for it. I fully agree with the principles expressed, and am trying to follow them out in the work here. The principal points should be held or occupied first, but, following Paul's example, they should be the principal points, and not one single city. Still, in following his history, we see that he pushed the work to the most needy places, and that some of the most prosperous churches were in smaller places. At Athens he could do nothing. He aimed at the evangelization of the world, and the Lord indicated the places most fit for his work. Cosihuiriachic, we believe to be a strategic point, not for its size, nor for its especial desire to receive the Gospel, but for its position, from which ~~easy~~ access can be had to all the mountain region, with its mining, agricultural and Indian population. Outside of this Indian

tribe of from 50 000 to 100 000, the greatest population of equal area in the state, there would be, as Mr. Case says, other points of more importance. Still here is Case. I can do absolutely nothing for these Indians yet. Indian nature is, in general, the same in all tribes. You can do nothing with them at arm's length. You must first gain their confidence, come into actual contact with them, know them and be known of them; but once gaining thier love, they are very faithful. The first entrance into their territory is the crucial moment, and must be made with great caution, and due preparation. If this can be done in such a way as to leave a good impression subsequent trips will be made easy. But even then we can do comparatively little. We must christianize some of them to send back to their own people. I think there is no way so sure to do this as by educating their children. They are anxious for schools, and it seems probable that we could get enough to start a school in a short time, by such a trip, but never without it. The expense would be very little this year. In case a school should be called for, the most we could expect this year would be the appointment of a lady teacher, but we do not want that until

after thorough exploration by more than one missionary and certainty of the need. For several years nothing more would be needed than the teacher, school room, furniture, and a fund for student aid, depending upon number of scholars and their condition. Probably tuition for day scholars from this place would aid in these expenses.

I did not intend to dwell so long on this subject, and do so only to show that no immediate great expense would be involved. With your last word of retrenchment necessary we must postpone for the present such a trip, and in view of all, I think it much better to wait a while. But, let me add, that even carrying out this work, it has never been my thought to lessen the work here and in adjoining towns. The services would be kept up regularly, with the help of the native brethren, and general oversight of the field could be maintained.

Still I find all I can do at present, and am rejoiced with new manifestations of the divine blessing on the work. Last week I went to San Ysidro. The first day was occupied in book-store accounts. The day following was a notable one in that vicinity. At a ranch a few miles away a double wedding was celebrated, at one of which I officiated, by request of the parents and couple to be married, although

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none of them are, as yet, members of the Church. The other couple were married simply by the civil justice. In this country, a marriage, to be legal, must be performed by the civil justice, and then a religious ceremony may be celebrated if the parties choose. The law simply ignores it. On this occasion there were ~~more than~~ about one hundred persons present, of whom not over twenty had ever witnessed any Protestant religious ceremony. It attracted a great deal of attention, especially from the thinking men present, and many of these afterward expressed themselves as especially pleased with the ceremony. The judge, who is called romanist, and who was present and officially pronounced them man and wife <u>after</u> the religious ceremony, was especially pleased, and on returning to his home in Guerrero, told many about it, and even remarked to the village priest that he liked it better than the romanist's ceremony, for the minister read some excellent advice from St. Paul. "But," replied the priest, "I also read an epistle ~~from~~ of St. Paul." "Yes" said the judge, "but it is in Latin, and we do not know whether it is good or not."

The next two days I held meetings in different houses, one in the room of ~~a~~ a sick member of the church. On Sunday at S.S. one little girl of ~~ten~~ years repeated fifty-one verses of the Bible, and another of seven years, recited 21, learned within a month. We celebrated the Lord's Supper in the afternoon, in the room of the sick man, with forty present, many new persons to me, baptized two infants, children of members of the church and when I called for those who wished to join the church at the next communion, six persons rose, two men with their wives, the daughter of one of them, and the son of the sick man.

Here, new persons are constantly coming, but it grieves us that so few <u>continue</u>. There is a good deal of hard ground, and not a little that is stony. At the last meeting at El Mortero, the owner of the ranch told me, first privately, then to the rest, that he has an idea of building a chapel there. Before hearing of the Bible he had thought of dedicating one to the Virgin of Guadalupe, but now, to God. He thinks of putting $300 or $400. into it. But this is dependant upon a good year, and also we are waiting for the full conversion of this man. He says that he and his family, a large one, are fully convinced, but we long to see the work of the Holy Spirit in him. A school-teacher in the same place, gives [illegible] promises of [illegible]. With regards from all — Yours truly [illegible]

Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.
Cosihuiriachic, Es'do de Chia.
Mexico, March 8th 1889

Rev. N. G. Clark D.D.
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of Feb. 14th was duly received.

I am glad that the Com. have acted in regard to the salary, but must report a mistake in the amount requested, which was $100 Mex. Silver. less than that granted. I asked for the addition of $12.50 a month beginning with Jan. first, which would amount to but $150.00 a year instead of $250.

The work advances slowly, but with continual hope here. There are several whom we hope to see come out openly and soon. One man and woman have abandoned work on Sunday, a long step for them. Another girl, wish to come, but all the family oppose her. She can only read and pray in secret.

With kindest regards, I am
Sincerely Yours,
A. C. Wright.

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Rec'd March 15 '86

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Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.
Cosihuiriachic, Es'do de Chih.
Mexico, April 5th 1889

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D.
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:

Yours of March 15th is at hand. We have just returned from another trip to San Ysidro, where I officiated at another wedding, at which there were more than one-hundred and twenty five present. The teacher of our day-school there says that before the first marriage she suffered a great deal of petty persecution on account of her religion, but that since that time it has nearly ceased. We can see that these occasions have made a good impression, and will do good in the neighborhood in various ways.

We learn through Mrs. Eaton that you have wished to know "how Miss Keyes would do for Cosi." On Jan. 8th, I wrote you quite fully our opinion in regard to her. We know no reason for thinking that her health would be better here than in Chihuahua, and fear that it would be even worse, for there are many more hardships to encounter here. More-over, she thinks that it is more than she could ever do, to conduct a school and superintend a boarding department for even a few scholars, and it is very evident that one who can not do that

is not needed here. But we are pleased to see that you have Cosi in view for school-work. As soon as it is decided that the salary for a lady teacher for this place can be granted, we shall be delighted to begin preparations for her reception; first, by looking for one fitted for the work; second, by giving some encouragement to the parents who have often asked us when we would start a school; and third, by a testing of the Indian population west of us, to see how many children could be brought to a school from there. Still, in view of the work nearer at hand, I had about abandoned any hope of visiting the Indians this year.

I hope that my letter of Feb. 22d has not been lost.

We think that the believers here ought to become well versed in the Scriptures, as may be seen from the following outline of services. Sunday mornings we study the International S. S. Lesson. In the evenings I am giving a course of ~~ex~~ expository sermons on the Revelation. Tues. afternoon Mrs. Wright leads the women's meeting in a study of the Gospel of John, and Thurs. night we have an historical study, now in Genesis, assigning topics to the different to study beforehand. Mrs. Wright joins me in kindest regards. A. C. Wright.

March 8, 1889

San Isidro, Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.
(Cosihuiriachic), Es'do de Chia.
Mexico, May 11th 1889.

Rev. N. G. Clark D.D.

Dear Sir:

I write from San Isidro, where Mrs. Wright arrived yesterday, after a little more than a day's ride in one of the strongest winds of this windy season of the year in No. Mexico. We visited the school in the afternoon. It is taught by Jesusita Orozco, the one who went to help the Crawfords last year, and a very devoted Christian worker. We found thirty children, chiefly girls, enrolled, and twenty-five present, and giving evidences of improvement and interest in their studies. But their thoughts were all fixed on the "Baby Organ" which we had brought with us from Cosihuiriachic, and, by special request of the teacher, had carried to the school. With perhaps one exception, none of the children had ever heard an organ or a piano, and they listened with all their powers, while Mrs. Wright played, and we sang. Although most of them are from Catholic families, a few are of our congregation, and these know the evangelical hymns, and all could join in the chorus of the hymn, "Around the throne of God, in heaven". Then they tried to march around the room in time to the music, and enjoyed it as much as if they had "kept step" perfectly, of which they had no idea. I heard one explaining to another, that that organ was not to play dance music on, like the violins and harps, but only to praise God with.

In the evening, about thirty neighbors came in to hear the organ and sing songs, into which, and between which a good amount of plain gospel preaching could be put. This evening we will have another meeting, and tomorrow, Sunday, the celebration

of the Lord's Supper, with reception of six new members. There are three to be proposed for reception at the next communion. In Cosihuiriachic, during Holy Week, we held special services four evenings, with sermons on the crucifixion and resurrection of Our Lord. The attendance ranged from thirty to forty-five, with many who had never come before, among them, the civil judge of the place. After the service of Saturday evening, I married a couple, who, due to the lax customs and former laws of this country, had been living together for years without being married. Sunday morning their babe was baptized, and in the evening, they were received to church membership. Seven persons in Cosi, have expressed the desire to be received at the next communion, but, for various reasons, only two of them will be admitted at that time. The week following, I took Mrs. Olds and Bessie to Chihuahua, on their way back to Clinton, Wis. They have been a great comfort to us, and a help in missionary work by their presence and hearty sympathy, and especially by their singing. The people all mourn their absence.

At Chihuahua I met Mr. Case, and, with Mr. Eaton, we spent one whole day in conference over the proposed Theol. Training School. The subject had been well thought over, and discussed, by correspondence, beforhand, and we had Mr. Crawford's opinions, although he could not be present personally. You have undoubtedly been of the result of the conference, and will know that we are all anxious to hear from you on the subject, and to know what decision the Board may make. Especially are Mrs. Wright and I waiting to hear from you, as the result may change, materially, our plans and work for the future. Still, the

A. C. Wright.

present is with us, and it is a very busy present. We are willing to go where the work most needs us, and to do what the Lord directs, and I have urged, ever since coming to Mexico, that something must be done to supply a native ministry, and have suggested some plans, but nothing has been possible until now. The plan proposed has its draw-backs and trials for us, but seems the most practicable, and least objectionable that we can present. Still we hope that it will not necessitate abandoning the work in this field, where everything seems to promise an abundant harvest, and where constant preparation can be made for the evangelization of the large number of Indians of the sierra 100 miles west of us. When it was proposed to locate the training-school at Paso del Norte, my first thought was, that coöperation with the Mexican work in New Mexico and Texas, would be possible, and advantageous. I believe that we could secure students from the various educational institutions there, and furnish a source of supply for the Mexican Cong'l, churches of both Mexico (Northern) and the U. S.. In that case, we ought also, to have aid, from the other societies, in supporting the school, forming a better equipped, and permanent institution. Already the New. West Ed. Soc. schools have sent students to eastern Theol. Seminaries, and the Am. Hom. Mis. Soc. are employing Mexicans to preach. But the training in an eastern seminary, must, to some extent, unfit the candidates for service among the Mexicans. If an institution can be established which will prepare them for the ministry, in their own language, and in their

own country, or vicinity, it will save this material for the work where it will be most efficient. Instead of educating a few young Mexicans in English, with the probability that they will choose to preach in broken English to some American congregation, thus forcing us to send more missionaries to preach in broken Spanish to Mexican congregations, we can educate these young men in their mother tongue, and set them to preaching to their own people. With the hearty coöperation of the different societies interested, I have thought that we could establish a school which, within a few years, would give as good a preparation for the Mexican ministry, as these young men would be apt to receive in American institutions, would call many more into the ministry, and would eventually save money to the Societies interested in the Mexican evangelical work, as well as advance rapidly that work.

I shall await, with interest, your opinion on this point. Mrs. Wright joins me in kindest regards to yourself —

Yours truly,

A. C. Wright.

San [illegible], May 11, 1889
Rec'd May 27

Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.
Cosihuiriachic, CHIHUAHUA
Mexico, June 21st, 1889.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D.,
Boston, Mass.,

Dear Sir:

Since my letter of May 14th, things have moved on quietly. The congregations here remain about the same, and we do not see the longed-for increase in attendance and interest, altho the few who do come, are faithful, and seem to be growing Christians. I have recently had two offers of rooms for the public services, in good locations, and think I could now secure a satisfactory hall, and that it would immediately and materially increase our congregations, but I do not feel at liberty to take this step until we hear something from the memorial sent to the Board last month.

Of the money granted by the Board for "Rent of Chapel" but not used, because we have given up our own parlor for the public services thus far this year, would it be allowable to apply a small part, ($27 78/100 Mex Silver) the amount which I have paid out of my own pocket, to salary of native helper, through lack of appropriation for that purpose? Also, if before the end of the year I should deem it advisable to employ him again, could I use what is needed of the unused part of that appropriation?

Hoping to hear from you soon, I am,

Yours truly

A. C. Wright.

Rev. A. C. Wright

Chihuahua, June 21, 1889.

Rec'd June 28

Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.
Cosihuiriachic, CHIHUAHUA
Mexico, June 25, 1889.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D.,
Cor. Sec'y. A. B. C. F. M. - Boston, Mass.,

Dear Sir:

In the letter sent by the last mail, I said nothing about the proposed training school, because we are all simply waiting to hear from you before taking any definite move in the matter. But in a letter from Mr. Eaton, rec'd the same day, he quotes you as saying, "We may wait for returns of correspondence which Mr. Wright is conducting." I have not continued the correspondence on this subject, for the very reason that I could not tell what the Board would do, and did not even know whether it would favor cooperation, or, if at all, to what extent. On that account, I wrote to you on May 11th, proposing this matter, and closing with this sentence, "I shall await with interest your opinion on this subject."

No reply has been received. Still I have written to various persons, not making definite propositions, but asking opinions, and will give epitome of some of the replies received.

In reply to a letter addressed to Rev. C. R. Bliss of the New West Ed. Com., a committee appointed by the Board, consisting of C. R. Bliss, S. Gilbert and G. S. F. Savage, say, among other things, "Our great regret is that we fear we cannot at this time extend our work south of Albuquerque and the immediate vicinity. Lack of means

forbids us even to cultivate properly fields we have already opened in New Mexico and we should incur absolute peril if we were to proceed to El Paso and establish a new station at that point." They suggest the possibility of establishing such a department with the new Academy at Albuquerque, and add, "The necessity for some place for such training seems to us indispensable. All our Cong'l. native ministers in N. M. only, I think three, all told (only one now, A. C. W.) came from the Methodists."

A letter from Rev. E. L. Hood, H. M. Supt, and acting president of University of New Mexico, says "We have had all told about a dozen Mexicans in the school this year. None are evangelical christians. All are young. * * * There is more and more a call for trained preachers in Spanish. These men can get a very good preparation in the schools already established by the Churches, tho it is not a professional training. * * * I see nothing in the way of cooperation by our several societies. * * * I should be glad to see such a project started, and will aid in any way I can." - Under date of May 28th. Rev. J. B. Clark of the A. H. M. S. writes, "The matter seems to us to be one of great importance, not only to the future interests of your own work, but also of ours. * * * We shall hail with joy a movement to provide suitable training for this class of missionaries." After asking for more information in regard to the kind of cooperation intended he adds, "It might be that friends

of our cause could be interested to contribute for its support by special gifts. It is thus that the Oberlin Slavic Dep't. and the Bohemian Bible Readers' School at Cleveland are in part sustained." In reply to questions, he says,
"1. There is undoubted need for such an institution.
2. We should hope to co-operate with the American Board so far as we have power to do so.
3. We have never had but three Spanish-speaking missionaries in New Mexico, at the present time we have but one.
4. Without a doubt the work might be extended had we the proper men.
5. Such a training school as that proposed will call out and equip such men.
6. We know of no institution where such men can be properly trained."
I expect replies from others later.
In view of your statement, "It was felt (by the Board, I suppose) that the Mission was at liberty to arrange for such a school if it was possible. I understand however, that they are not prepared to make any special grant for it," Mr. Eaton suggests another conference, and adds, "Miss Eaton and I would favor a return (from Cosi) to Chihuahua or a move to C. Juarez (Paso del Norte)," with remarks about the necessary readjustment of appropriations for such a purpose.

I will say that we also favor a removal, altho it will be with considerable sacrifice on

our part. In coming here we lost a great deal, and many things were broken in the transfer of 75 miles over the roughest wagon-road. On leaving, we should be obliged to sell as much as possible, and to rebuy, and this is always at a loss. Our reasons for a removal, however, are,
1st. The imperative need of the immediate establishment of a training school. This has been sufficiently demostrated in other letters.
2d. That the principal object of our coming here has not been attained, nor is there hope of attaining it for some time, through lack of funds. In my letter of May 10th, '88, proposing the removal to Cosi, I said, "To my mind, the cheif argument for establishing work at Cosi, is that it offers a beginning for work among the Indians." Mr. Case gave his approval of that action only in view of the Indian work, believing that there were other points in the state, more promising for work among the Mexicans. True, the Mexican work has prospered here during the year. Five have been added to the Church in San Isidro, with four more to be received at the next communion, and by the first Sunday of July, four will have been received here, with the probability of three candidates for the next time, while much work has been done in different points to the distance of 75 miles from here.
3d. The relatively greater importance of other points,

as Paso del Norte, for solely Mexican work, especially when, with such a change, work in Cosi. and vicinity could also be continued, under direction from Chihuahua.

5th. The possibility of future co-operation with workers in New Mexico, and Texas, in training-school work, in case of removal to Paso del Norte, (see my letter of May 11th.).

6th. That missionary work could be prosecuted there advantageously, in case that, for any reason, the students or the funds should be lacking for a time, for the school.

In view of the foregoing, and what you may have rec'd from other members of the Mission, I would ask,

1st. Would the Board favor our removal from Cosi, for the purpose of beginning a there training-school, provided that the total expenses of the Mission for 1890 be kept within the sum of the appropriations for this year?

2d. In case of the establishment of such a school, is there a reasonable prospect of its future support?

A speedy reply will be appreciated, in order that we may make the necessary preparations for the conference for the first of August.

Respectfully Yours,

A. C. Wright.

Cosi Chihuahua Mex.
June 25 – 1889.

Rec'd July 2. 1889.

P. C.

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Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.
Cosihuiriachic, CHIHUAHUA
Mexico, July 2d. 1889.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D.,

Boston, Mass.,

Dear Sir.

In regard to your letter of June 19. to Mr. Eaton, with request to forward to Mr. Case, and myself, I would say that, although appointed by the Mission to conduct such correspondence, it was my opinion also, that eventually there should be correspondence on the subject between the secretaries of our society, and the other secretaries. As stated in my last letter, I was awaiting some word from the Board, to guide in the correspondence, and in the mean time, endeavored to prepare the way for something definite, by giving a few facts in regard to our need, and asking for data from their side, which I thought might be brought out by response to a few questions which I proposed. You already have an outline of the replies so far received.

In regard to the location of the school, I will quote from Mr. Eaton's letter; "Dr. Clark's reasoning in favor of Chihuahua would be weighty were his premises correct; but I think these are in part at fault, as shown by the "Memorial"." The proposition of the Mission is to establish in Paso del Norte, on this side of the river, unless later, for the formation of a union Seminary, it should be deemed best to transfer it to El Paso. The opportunities for evangelistic work by the students, while continuing their studies, would be greater in Paso del Norte, than in Chihuahua,

Cosi. Chihuahua Mex.

while it is our opinion that the expenses there would not be greater than in Chihuahua. Also, more missionary work could be done by this distribution of the missionaries

It seems to be the unanimous opinion of the missionaries that Paso del Norte would be preferable for the location of the school, even in case that no union effort should succeed.

Mr. Case now proposes to go north (three weeks!) at an earlier date than Aug. first, but (and if Mr. C. should have to wait) we hope to receive a reply to the questions proposed in my last, before our conference.

Respectfully yours
A. C. Wright

Cm. July 28 188[illegible]

Cusihuiriachic, Chihuahua, Mexico.
Aug. 2. 1889.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D.,
Dear Sir:

Your favor of July 10. is at hand, and we are keeping on, holding well the work in hand, as proposed, and, indeed, as we have been doing. In July, two were received as members here in Cusi, and I am informed of six who wish to be proposed as candidates for admission at the next communion. These are interesting cases, all living several miles out of the town, but I have not conversed with them sufficiently as yet, to know whether I can advise them to present themselves as candidates now, or to wait until a little more thoroughly informed, and more fully proved in their Christian life.

Tuesday I returned from our Conference in Chihuahua. Undoubtedly Mr. Case has written you an account of the proceedings. In regard to the request for leave of absence for Mrs. Wright, it was proposed in view of her approaching confinement, for the following reasons: There is no competent doctor obtainable here, the nearest being in Chihuahua, 75 miles distant. The roof of this house (as good as the average in this place except those covered with corrugated iron, which are not obtainable), is of earth, and is not proof against the Sept. and Oct. drizzles, which last for several days, and probably will not leave a dry place

Ans. July 28 1889

A. C. Wright

a foot square in the whole house. It was so last year. This change would not involve extra expense for the Board, but probably would save money, by allowing the renting of a part of this house.

But on further consideration, we now think of taking a room in Chihuahua, where I could leave Mrs. Wright with a Mexican servant, and return to the work here, being within call in case of need. This would keep us both from our work less than the other plan.

In case the question of the Training school had been decided definitely, and it had been arranged for us to remove either to Chihuahua or to Paso del Norte, there would have been no necessity of this plan, as in those places we could secure all that is needed. But we are satisfied that it is best to wait until it is clear what course ~~is best~~ to follow.

Our climate here is delightfully cool, and invigorating, but the extreme scarcity of vegetables and fruit, and their prices so much higher than in Chihuahua, make the question of food and salary a serious one.

Mrs. Wright joins me in kindest regards to you.

Yours truly,

A. C. Wright.

Chihuahua, Aug. 2, 1889

Rec'd Aug. 9

Ack^d Oct. 21

Mr. Wright

request

Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.,
Cusihuiriachic, CHIHUAHUA
Mexico, Aug. 30th, 1889.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D.,
Boston, Mass.,

Dear Sir:

The outlook is still good in this station. There are now five candidates to be received in Oct., with three others who are very faithful at services, in Bible study, and in prayer. There are still others who cannot attend our meetings or be seen with us in body, who are fully with us in spirit. One of these, a girl of perhaps 16 years, has her testament, and hymnbook hidden from the family because of their opposition. Night before last she arose while the others were sleeping "to steal a while away", and was reading her testament when her father awoke. He was very angry at finding her thus occupied, and began striking her, and seized her book and threw it on the ground. She said nothing when he beat her, but when he seized her precious volume, she cried "O Father! Beat me if you will, but do not throw my book away." Yesterday they carried her to another town, hoping that she would thus be beyond the influence of the protestants, but we believe that she is under a stronger influence than that of any man or body of men.

At San Ysidro, where I went last week, I received one man to the church, and baptized an infant, leaving three candidates definitely proposed for reception at the next communion, and with requests from two others for admission, whose cases will

Chihuahua, Aug. 20, 1889

be considered at my next visit. One of these is of a man who attended his first evangelical service that day, and bought a Bible to take home with him. But he has read the Holy Book with friends, for a month or more. At the service on Sunday (in San Isidro) there were 67 inside the room, and a dozen or more outside, only because they could not get in. All paid the most respectful and interested attention, and a collection of 5.00 was received to raise a monument to Hidalgo, the Washington of Mexico. Also in Cusi, at a service where only 23 were present, $6.50 was contributed to the same object. The regular collection for incidental expenses here, varies from .75 to 1.25, while the congregation is only from 15 to 25. The people are looking forward toward self support, as is shown from the proposal of one of the new believers, to give 25.00 in cash, and his own work on the building, to erect a chapel for evangelical service in this place, and was confident that enough could be raised among the people of the place, to complete the building. While I cannot see sufficient hope for that as yet, I am greatly pleased with the spirit shown.

I now have with me, one young man studying to prepare for the ministry. While this takes much time, he also can help me in various ways.

With kindest regards from Mrs. Wright and myself.

Yours truly,

A. C. Wright.

Chihuahua, Aug. 30, 1889.

Rec'd Sep. 7.

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Inf^{d}

D. C.

Oct. 5, 1889.

Mision del Norte,
Cusihuiriachic, CHIHUAHUA
Mexico, 10/5, 1889.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D.

Boston, Mass.,

Dear Sir:

Your favor of Sept. 25th, is just received, and I wish to thank you for the interest manifested in us. I presume that, on account of your illness, the letters have been noted in order different from that in which they were sent, as nothing was written about Mrs. Wright's going north until after the request of the mission, and subsequently I wrote that the leave of absence would not be needed, as we decided that it would be better for her to stay in Chihuahua this winter, where I can reach her with three days' notice. She is not at all well, and next week I shall take her to Chihuahua. Altho' the trip will be hard on her, we will make it as easy as possible, and it is the only thing that can be done.

During the month of Sept. I have driven 175 miles, and conducted 16 services. Tomorrow five are to be received to membership in the church here.

We are very glad to learn that your health is now better, and sincerely hope that you will have no more attacks. Perhaps you have seen my sister Mary P. Wright, on her return from Marsovan. We are praying for the Annual Meeting.

Yours truly, A. C. Wright.

Chihuahua, Aug. 30, 1889.

Chihuahua, Oct. 5 1889.

Rec'd Oct.

Later: The little paper published in this town has just been delivered to me, and I will translate the leading article, as it relates to the influence of mission work here. It has attracted a great deal of attention. ~~Tra~~

"Religious Contrasts.

The Catholic Church has degraded, calumniated and ~~tormented~~ tortured the great Hidalgo, and with him, Morelos and Matamoros (Heroes of Mexican Independence). It anathematized the uprising for freedom in 1810, and became, at last, the miserable instrument of the accursed interest of monarchical despotism, which ever opposed national independence and the liberty of the people. With the clergy and with many others, our great liberators, such as Benito Juárez, pass for highwaymen and contumacious disturbers of the peace.

Thus thinks the Holy Mother Catholic Church.

The protestants recognize the leaders of our independence as true benefactors of humanity, and honor and bless the memory of all who fought for liberty, and to set free the oppressed. Two facts which speak highly in favor of the Evangelical Church have suggested to us these reflections. The first is as follows: The 16th of September of last year, the presbyterian pastor of Chihuahua (a mistake, as he refers to

Pastor; the letter before published in Spanish [illegible] has just been delivered to me, and I will translate the leading articles relating to the influence of missions among them; it has attracted a great deal (Ouachimachie) or the of attention." [illegible]

The Catholic Church has degraded, calumniated and ~~tormented~~ tortured the great Hidalgo, and with him, Morelos and Matamoros (heroes of Mexican Independence). It anathematized the uprising for freedom in 1810, and became, at last, the miserable instrument of the [illegible] of monarchical despotism, which ever opposed national independence and the liberty of the people. With the clergy and with many others, our great liberators, such as Benito Juarez, have for high wrongs and excommunications of the [illegible] have thanked the Holy Mother Catholic Church.

The protestants recognize the leaders of our independence as best benefactors of humanity, and honor and bless the memory of all who fought for liberty and to set free the oppressed. Two facts, which speak highly in favor of the Evangelical Church have suggested to me these reflections. The first is as follows: The 16th of September of last year, the presbyterian pastor of Chihuahua (a minister too be referred to

union meeting of the Methodist and Congregationalist bodies), conducted a service in their church in honor of the Father of our Country, (Hidalgo). The second occurred in this place (Cusihuiriachic) on the 19th of August. Rev. Mr. Wright distributed generally invitations to the house in which their services are held, where a lecture was given treating of the duties of the citizen toward the country and its liberators, and received contributions from those present for the monument in honor of Hidalgo (erected this year in Chihuahua).

With reason then, it is, that protestantism is gaining ground so rapidly in our country. T. A."

The writer of the above is one of the leading business men of the place. But a word of explanation is needed. This does not mean that he, or others of his opinions attend our services regularly, or adopt our religious views at all. Oh no! It is not popular enough yet. It only means that this is a very liberal town, and that it is popular with a few leading men, to embrace every opportunity to attack the Roman clergy. For that reason, they are friendly to us, and we hope, and pray that we may eventually lead them to something better than mere opposition to Rome.

Yours truly
A. C. Wright.

a sermon consisting of the Methodist and Congregationalist bodies) conducted a service in their church in honor of the Father of our Country (Hidalgo). The second occurred in this place (Guachochic) on the 19th of August, Rev. Mr. Wright distributed printed invitations to the hall in which these services were held, where a lecture was given treating of the duties of the citizen toward the country and its liberators, and received contributions from those present for the monument in honor of Hidalgo (erected this year in Chihuahua).

With reason then, it may that Protestantism is gaining ground so rapidly in our Country.

J. A."

The writer of the above is one of the leading business men of the place. But a word of explanation is needed. This does not mean that he, or others of his opinions attend our services regularly, or adopt our religious views at all. Oh no! It is not Protestant sympathy. It only means that this is a very liberal town, and that it is Protestant with a few leading men to embrace every opportunity to attack the Roman clergy. For that reason they are friendly to me, and we hope, and pray that we may eventually lead them to something better than mere opposition to Rome.

Yours truly,
M. C. Wright.

Nov 8. 1889. 482

Cusihuiriachic, Chihuahua,
Mexico. 11/8, 1889.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D.,
Boston, Mass.,

Dear Sir:

You have doubtless heard from others of the conference held in El Paso last month, and of the favorable outlook for the speedy, if not immediate establishment of the training school which we so much need here, and coöperation with home work at the same time. The plan, as now proposed, would involve our removal to Paso del Norte, or perhaps to El Paso, (the preference being in favor of this side of the river). For ourselves, we would not choose the change, as this climate is far preferable, and we have the pleasantest relations with the people of this place, and confidently expect a great development of evangelical work in this region, as soon as we can secure native and competent helpers. But the work here, as in all our stations, depends largely upon such help, and that is a thing not to be secured until the school has been established. For this reason, and because the brethren of the mission deem me competent to take charge of the training school, while this station, of all, is probably in the best condition to endure a change, we are willing to remove, and undertake the school, if that be deemed by all the best thing. We came to Mexico to work, and not to seek the best climate. At the same time, I hope that this field will not

be left to the care of the untrained native helpers that we can secure now. It will drag along and be in constant danger of dying, as has been the case in Paso del Norte, altho that point has had quarterly visits from Mr. Eaton. With proper direction, and native helpers, we consider this a more important point to hold than Paso del Norte, but without the school, ^among others^ there would be little to be gained over Paso del Norte, by keeping a missionary family here. In other words, while by going to Paso del Norte, I could probably do as much church work as here ^without helpers^, and carry on the school besides, it is nevertheless, of the utmost importance for the development of this sierra region, the richest, the thickest populated (counting the Indians), and the most liberal part of the state, that a missionary be sent here immediately, in case we should remove. The Board can afford to do it. The generous support of our churches now will secure this state of Mexico at least, to congregationalists, and in a few years native pastors can carry on almost all the work of the churches. If the plan for the training school, as presented by Mr. Case, is adopted, the Board will gain a new "primary school, with teacher who has had four years experience (more than we have) in the language, and well adapted, who will also

be able to take charge of much of the elementary instruction of the theological students, and without additional expense to the Board. I am assured that she could begin Jan. 1st. 1890! We wanted to begin our theological class six months ago, and have needed the school for three years. Can we not improve this opportunity?

At the conference I was repeatedly urged to go to Chicago with Mr. Hood, to present this subject to the New West Ed. C. and to persons of influence there, and was assured by Mr. Hood that if I could do it, the school could be established early in next year, probably in January. Mr. Hood will not go alone, as he says that it is of the greatest necessity to present both home and foreign views of the subject. I hesitated, but at last consented on condition that we could hear from our society favorably in time to allow us to leave by Dec. 1st, and that I could return by Dec. 15th. Mrs. Wright's condition renders these limits necessary. Mr. Hood said that we could make the trip and do all that was necessary in ten days. In case this plan is not practicable, the matter will be delayed for a few months, but we hope not longer.

On my return I find things prospering here. My student has conducted himself, and church matters well. Mrs. Wright stood the trip to Chihuahua very well. It is sad here without her. Next week I go to San Andres again. Hoping to hear from you soon, fraternally A. C. Wright.

(over) (over)

Later: I am very sorry to learn, through Mr. Eaton, that you have been ill again. I hope ere this that you have recovered and that you will suffer no more from such trouble.

I append an outline of the work done in Oct: Sunday the 6th. Celebrated the Lord's Supper here, receiving four to membership (one candidate not being able to attend). The 8th we started for Chihuahua, reaching there on Thursday the 10th. On Friday and Saturday nights I preached in special services at request of Mr. Eaton, besides hunting rooms to rent for Mrs. Wright, and on Sunday preached once in English and once in Spanish. Wed. night of that week I started, with Mr. Eaton to "El Valle de San Buenaventura", of which trip, and the organization of the seventh Congl. Church in this State, you will hear in full from Mr. Eaton. Suffice it to say that, on account of the arrival of the stage with all the seats occupied, I was obliged to return by horseback on a poor horse and poorer saddle, 80 miles with three meals on the way of nothing but Mexican cheese, jerked beef, and water, and to mount the train at half-past two the night after reaching the railroad, to meet my engagement at the conference in El Paso. Mr. Eaton waited, in San B., and was a second time disappointed by the stage, but arrived home a week later. Returning from El Paso Fri. night, all day Saturday was spent in conference at Chihuahua on the school question. Sunday I preached twice, and after arranging things as comfortably as possible for Mrs. Wright, on Thurs. I started back for Cusi.

Yours truly
A. C. Wright.

Chihuahua Nov 8, 1889
Rec'd Nov 18-1889

Chihuahua, Mexico,
Dec. 2d. 1889.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D.
Boston, Mass.,

Dear Sir:

The enclosed letter will explain itself. Supt. Hood writes, "The endeavor is meeting with the good-will and wishes of all the brethren. I feel the need of the school for our side more and more. I see little hope of getting men properly trained for work among the Mexicans. And to commission untrained men is to run a great risk and possibly suffer severely in the end.

I am here for a week's visit with Mrs. Wright, who is well, and joins me in kindest regards to you.

Yours truly
A. C. Wright.

Later [illegible] very [illegible] through Mr.
Eaton, that you [illegible] I hope [illegible]
this that [illegible]
we [illegible]

Rev. A. C. Wright.
Chihuahua, Dec. 2, 1889.
Rec'd Dec. 9.

Sunday the 6th [illegible]
to meet [illegible]
The [illegible]
the 10th [illegible]
service [illegible]
sent for Mr [illegible]
English and [illegible]
started, with [illegible]
which trip, [illegible]
in the [illegible]
Supper at [illegible]
with all the [illegible]
horseback [illegible]
with three [illegible]
[illegible]
at half past [illegible]
[illegible]
Mr. Eaton [illegible]
the stage, for
El Paso [illegible]
at Chihuahua [illegible]
and after arranging things as comfortably as possible
Mrs. Wright [illegible] I started back for [illegible].
Yours truly,
[illegible]

Chihuahua, Mexico, 12/27, 1889

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D.,
Boston, Mass.,

Dear Brother:

Your favors of the 12th and the 18th are at hand, the latter received today. We rejoice that matters begin to take a decisive shape. About the details of the plan I will not write until after consultation with the other members of the mission. I suppose that our further plans for the extension of mission work must depend largely upon the reply which the Board may give to our other request, that for re-inforcements. What we do with Cusi must depend upon that.

I presume that ere this you are informed of the application of Rev. H. M. Whaling, pastor of the Pres. Ch. in El Paso, for work in Mexico. I have met him twice, and find him a very agreeable gentleman, and he certainly has been very successful in his work there.

I am well pleased with the action of the Com. so far, but think I ought to be in San Isidro during a part of the months of Feb. and March, when we have planned to begin the work for the new chapel there, and I also hope to organize the church in Cusi before leaving. At present it is simply a branch of the Chihuahua church. Mrs. Wright is well, and joins me in kind regards to you. Sincerely yours,

A. C. Wright.

Mrs. A. C. Wright
Chickasaw
Dec. 27 1887

Wright, Mrs. Annie C.

Chihuahua, Mexico,
Feb. 16, 1888.

Dr. N. G. Clark, Rec'd Feb. 24.
Boston, Mass.,

Dear Sir,

Your kind remembrance of me in a letter to Mr. Wright received this morning, as well as in other letters, suggests to me that I write you of an enterprise for which we have been planning and working, and which was brought before the public last night.

We have felt, for some time, the need of a reading-room, for the use of our own people, and to attract others who might come to such a place while they would not be willing to be seen in one of our public services, at first. Now, we have such a room, Mr. Wright having given up for that purpose the one

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something that shall be a diversion and, if possible, a means of education. This is what we want the reading room to be. It will be open evenings and Sun. P.M.'s, this last being the regular time for bull-fights.

Last evening, we had the opening of the reading-room here, in our house. Our people were told to bring as many of their friends as they could persuade to come, and they responded well, more than a hundred and forty being present, many of them new people. They were seated and standing in the patio during the exercises, which consisted of music, one of my organ scholars taking part in a duet, a speech by the teacher of the boys' school, who will have charge of the reading-room during the time that it is open, and one by Mr. Wright; after which Mr. Eaton exhibited some of his scriptural views which all enjoyed. The company was a mixed one, there being present

which he has had for a study, and taken for his own use one which was used as a recitation-room, inferior to the other in every way.

The reading-room has a window opening on the street, and we have made it as attractive as possible, taking furniture that could be spared from elsewhere, so as to be at no expense for furnishing. We wanted to save for the purchase of books as much as possible, as our resources for this object were less than ten dollars, that having been given us by some of the Raymond excursionists who spent Sunday before last in the city, attended our services and expressed an interest in the work.

The five evangelical papers of Mexico are donated by the publishers, Mr. Wright having written them of the use to which he wished to put the papers. Then we have an educational paper, two from Spain and expect to receive others. This is a humble beginning, but we hope to grow.

I would like to inquire whether there would be any objection to the sending of funds directly to us, for this purpose, by those societies who may desire to do so, and whose members have a greater interest in our work because of an interest in us personally? As there is no appropriation for this, our only means of receiving help is from friends, and to us, this seems an important part of the work. If we frown upon attendance at bull-fights, cock-fights and gambling, in its many forms, it is no more than right that we suggest, and, if possible, bring within the reach of the people,

some poor women, who have recently begun coming to our meetings, and who walked several miles, carrying their children, coming before dark and staying here over night; students from the State Institute, and one government official with his family, a liberal, highly educated and cultured, a warm personal friend of Mr. Wright's, who has shown us many kindnesses, but has never before been present at any public gathering of ours. Several American friends were here, too, whom we try to interest in our work, for their own sakes, for the sake of the work, and for the sake of the influence upon our people.

We are still enjoying in memory the delight which it gave us to have Mr. and Mrs. Howland in our home during the week which they spent here at the time of the conference, which was one

of pleasure and profit.

We are looking forward with the pleasantest of anticipations to attending the conference in Guadalajara this fall, to which Mr. Wright was appointed delegate; hoping to profit much by seeing the work of others and by their experience.

We tried to banish from Mr. Case's mind any other thought than that the two weeks which he spent in our home after the operation, was a time for pleasant visiting and of interchange of plans for future work, and we made it this as far as possible.

I feel that I should apologize for writing you at such length; but we have felt your interest in all parts of our work, and unconsciously, I have found myself writing as to a friend.

Thanking you for your kind and helpful words,

yours respectfully,

Annie Olds Wright.

Mrs. Wright

Cosihuiriachic, Chia., Mexico,
Jan. 22, 1889.

Dr. N. G. Clark,
Boston, Mass.;
Dear Sir:-

We take the liberty of enclosing for your perusal, a copy of a letter written to the S.S. through whose generosity we are now the possessors of the "baby-organ" we have desire. We thought that you would be interested in hearing of this opening, and sending this copy saves our rewriting it.

I feel thankful too - be because a woman who was formerly engaged in miss'y work in Mexico City, under Bishop Riley, now married and living here, took active part in our women's meeting this afternoon for the first time. She has not identified herself with us publicly before, and I feel that it is a cause for thanksgiving

Mrs. Wright

for she is very able, as she gave proof this afternoon, and can do much good if she chooses. Our prayer is that she may choose the better part.

Yours very truly,

Annie Olds Wright